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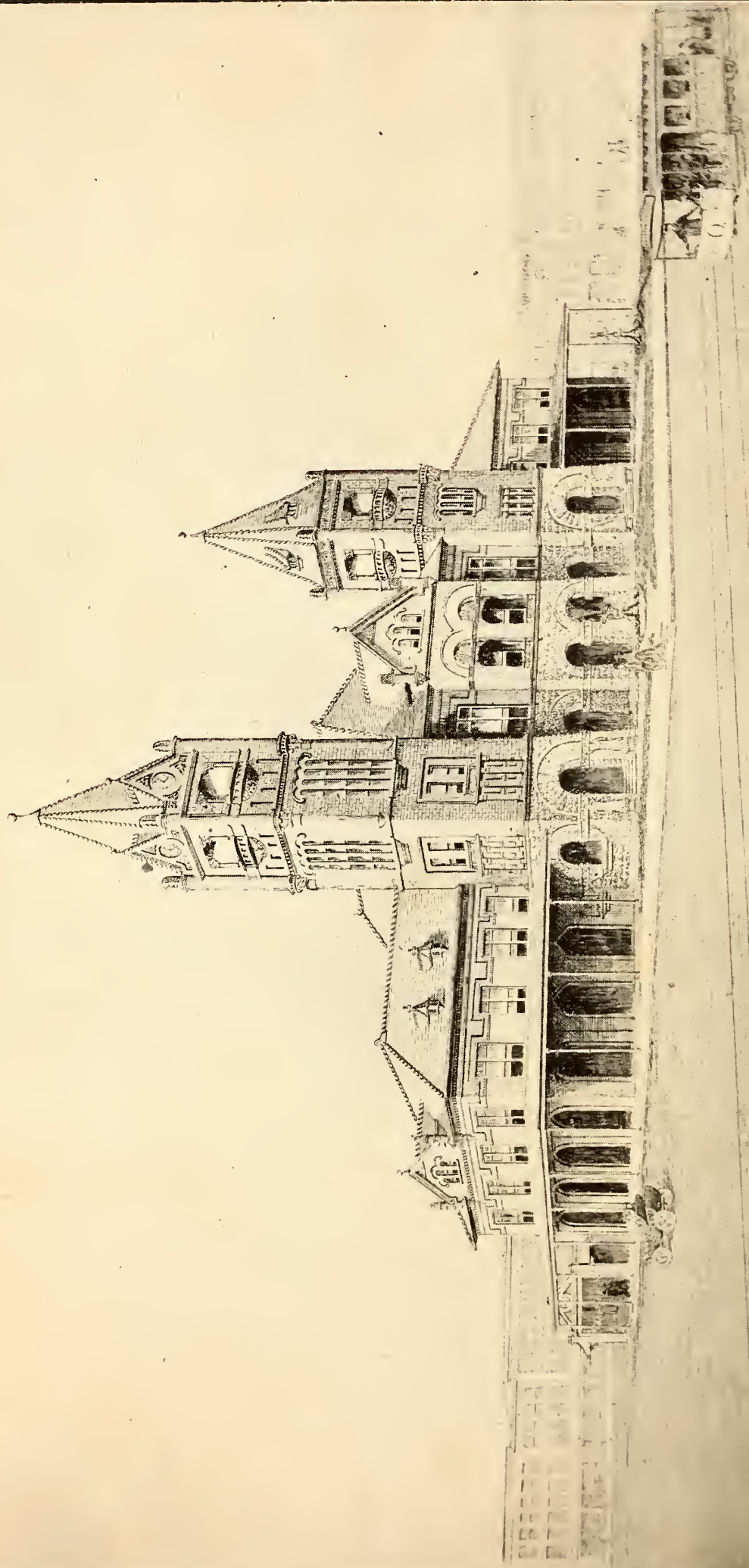
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ANNUAL MESSAGE

OF

O. T. HOLT

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON

AND



ANNUAL REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31, 1902.



HOUSTON, TEXAS:
W. H. COYLE & CO., STATIONERS AND PRINTERS,
1903.

CITY OF HOUSTON.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Hon. City Council of the City of Houston:

GENTLEMEN—In obedience to the requirements of the Charter, I beg to submit herewith my annual message. The accompanying statements of the financial condition of the city were prepared by the City Auditor, and are attached to and made a part of my report.

These statements show the actual cost of conducting the various departments of the city government for the year 1902, upon which I base my recommendation of the following appropriations which should be made for the current year, and which, in my judgment, are necessary for as economical an administration of the various departments of the government as is consistent with thorough efficiency.

BUDGET FOR 1903.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

Executive:

Mayor's Office	\$ 3,050.00
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Legislative:

City Council	2,880.00
City Secretary's Office	3,940.00

Law Department:

City Attorney's Office	10,000.00
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GENERAL GOVERNMENT—*Continued*:

Brought forward.....	\$ 19,870.00
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Finance Department:

City Auditor's Office	1,750.00
City Treasurer's Office	2,500.00
City Assessor and Collector.....	10,600.00

Miscellaneous:

City Hall.....	3,520.00
Board of Appraisement.....	900.00
Interest on Bonded Debt	161,000.00
Miscellaneous Interest.....	6,000.00
Electric Lights	40,000.00
Water.....	24,000.00
Storrie Certificates.....	12,000.00
Contingent.....	21,890.00

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Police Department.....	57,000.00
Corporation Court	2,500.00
Fire Department.....	56,800.00
Health Department	13,000.00
City Scavenger Department.....	13,500.00
Electrical Department.....	3,500.00

PUBLIC WORKS:

Board of Public Works.....	500.00
City Engineer	7,000.00
Street and Bridge Dept.....	45,000.00
Garbage Department.....	12,000.00
Sewer System	15,000.00

PUBLIC INDUSTRIES:

Markets	2,220.00
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PUBLIC EDUCATION, RECREATION AND ART:

Schools.....	80,000.00
Sam Houston Park	5,720.00
Houston Lyceum and Carnegie Library.....	2,400.00

\$620,170.00

You will observe that the appropriations recommended for 1903 are considerably in excess of the budget for 1902, which aggregated but \$380,100.00, while the footing of the present budget

is \$620,170.00. This excess is mainly due to the method of making up the budget. Formerly the custom prevailed of supplementing the budget allowance with the revenues from the different revenue-producing departments of the city, except tax collections, when these revenues, amounting in the aggregate to something over \$40,000.00, should more correctly have gone to the credit of the general fund, leaving the budget to show the gross amount necessary for the maintenance of the respective departments, as is contemplated in the proposed appropriations for 1903.

Another discrepancy in the financial exhibit presented on January 1, 1902, is shown by the fact that the expenditures for December, 1901, were omitted, thus reducing the current expenses for the year, and the January, 1902, collections were included in the 1901 exhibit in the retirement of the floating debt.

Hence it is that a comparison, in detail, of the budget proposed for 1903 with that of 1902 would show about the same discrepancy as would be found in the comparison of the budget allowance for 1902 with the amounts actually expended in the different departments.

Some of the notable items of increase for the departments are found in the allowances made for the fire and health departments and for water and light service, for which service the budget of 1902 provided for only about 50 per cent. of the actual cost of these two public utilities.

The chief increase, however, in the proposed budget, as compared with that of 1902, is caused by incorporating in the budget an appropriation of \$161,000.00 for the interest on the bonded debt, which has to be paid out of the current revenues, but which amount has not heretofore been listed in the budget.

Further reviewing the financial statements of the Auditor submitted herewith, I beg to direct your attention to the following figures:

On April 14, 1902, when this administration took charge of the affairs of the city,—

The General Fund was overdrawn	\$ 4,147.82
There were warrants outstanding	41,866.41
Accounts payable, not covered by warrants	11,240.79
Wages accrued and not paid	5,372.35
Miscellaneous interest due and not paid	2,157.98
Bills payable	66,581.52

Total current liabilities	\$131,366.67
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To meet these current liabilities there was cash in hands of—

Assessor and Collector	\$ 3,766.75	
Police Department	138.10	
City Engineer	113.20	
Market Master	167.25	4,185.30

Leaving net current liabilities	\$127,181.37
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On December 31, 1902, there were warrants drawn and unpaid	\$ 89,186.85	
Bills payable	95,715.97	
Accounts payable not covered by warrants	2,219.93	
Miscellaneous interest	2,116.90	189,239.65

To meet these current liabilities there was cash in hands of—

Treasurer, General Fund	\$ 27,310.06	
Assessor and Collector	110,437.47	
Police Department	116.60	
City Sealer	2.00	137,866.13

Leaving net current liabilities	\$ 51,373.52
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Thus the present administration has reduced the floating debt from \$127,181.37 to \$51,373.52.

I further desire to call your attention to the fact, as shown by the Auditor's statement, that the departmental expenditures for the first three and one-half months of the year 1902 under a former administration averaged per month \$47,036.69, while for the last eight and one-half months, under the present administration, the

average per month has been but \$38,753.88, a net reduction per month of \$8,282.81.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS.

I also desire to submit to you a brief review of the work of the different departments for the year 1902, as shown by the reports filed by the heads of the several departments with the City Secretary.

The various statements of the Auditor, as shown by his report, include balance sheets, showing the financial condition of the city on April 14, 1902, when this administration took charge of the affairs of the city, a balance sheet showing the condition of the financial affairs of the city on January 1, 1903, a comparative statement of the departmental revenue and cost of maintenance for the years 1901 and 1902, and schedules of the bonded and floating indebtedness of the city.

The report of the Assessor and Collector shows the amount of taxes assessed for the year 1902, upon an appraisement of \$31,287,027, to have been \$625,740, of which \$420,592.75 has been collected, leaving a balance of \$205,147.79 of the 1902 taxes yet to be collected.

Considering the present and prospective demands upon the city's revenues, I recommend that the tax levy remain as it is—at 2 per cent—as this amount will not produce a revenue in excess of what is absolutely necessary to conduct the affairs of the city along the lines of the strictest economy compatible with efficient service. But, in my opinion, if the same policy of economy now maintained is continued, it will be possible to reduce the rate of taxation next year at least one-eighth of the present rate.

The assessment of property values has always been a source of annoyance and trouble to those charged with the duty of fixing values upon the holdings of citizens, and the usual complaint attaches to this administration that assessments are too high, but

this complaint is adequately refuted by the fact that rents have advanced and business conditions have improved in a greater ratio than values have been advanced. While there are instances where inequalities exist, they are being remedied when properly presented to the Council, but as a rule it is not true that property has been assessed by the present administration upon a higher average than two-thirds of what it would sell for in the open market.

The report of the Treasurer shows the following amount of money turned in from the revenue-producing departments of the city, outside of tax collections, and the reports from the heads of these departments generally correspond with the figures as reported by the Treasurer:

From Police Department.....	\$12,603.50
From Market Department.....	9,415.25
From Electrical Department...	1,501.40
From Boiler Inspector.....	390.00
From Scavenger Department...	15,096.00
From Engineering Department.	1,606.80

These amounts, together with the taxes and sundry revenues from other sources, make the total amount deposited during the year to the credit of the general fund, as shown by the Treasurer's statement, \$650,017.39.

The report of the City Attorney shows that the number of suits against the city aggregate \$535,000, and that the city has suits against the Water Company for \$116,000, and against the insurance companies for \$24,000.

The bonded debt amounts at present to \$2,999,000, \$1,000 having been retired by the present administration, being the only bond maturing during the year. The annual interest on the bonded debt is \$161,000, which has been promptly paid through the Board of Liquidation.

The work of improving the streets, inaugurated by the preceding administration has been vigorously prosecuted during the

life of this administration, and the need for more and better streets is so apparent that it will be the policy of this administration to continue the work.

On the 1st of January, 1902, there was a balance to the credit of the street paving fund of \$238,789.18 from the \$240,000 in bonds issued in 1901. The accretions of this fund during the year amounted to \$13,079.56, making a total to the credit of the paving fund of \$251,868.74. Most of this money has been expended during the present administration in carrying out contracts previously made, leaving a balance on January 1st, 1903, of \$21,189.84.

Asphalt pavements have been laid during the present administration as shown by the report of the Engineer: On Congress Avenue, from Chartres to Milam; on Preston Avenue, from Caroline to Washington; on Prairie Avenue, from Travis to Fannin; on Franklin Avenue, from San Jacinto Street to the Franklin Street bridge; on Travis Street, from Commerce to Texas Avenue; on Leeland Avenue, from Louisiana to Crawford, increasing the total of asphalt paving now laid in the city to 6.29 miles; the other street pavements, including brick, gravel, bois d'arc, macadam and shell, increasing the grand total of paved streets to 26.22 miles, in addition to which existing contracts for street improvements aggregate about \$43,000.

In addition to this there are 37.34 miles of sewers, all of which is set out with more particularity in the very comprehensive and exhaustive annual report which has been submitted by the City Engineer, whose report also shows that the building permits issued during the year indicate that \$958,858 has been expended in building improvements, as against \$603,448 in 1901, while the fire losses, as shown by the report of the Chief of Fire Department, have been but \$61,292.65.

These statistics show a healthy growth, and the result has been an impetus in the building of residence property during the year

just closed unprecedented in the history of Houston during any other like period of its existence.

The average citizen has but a vague idea of the amount of work necessary and the expense involved in keeping a city clean. The appropriations recommended for the current year embrace \$45,000 for the Street and Bridge Department and \$12,000 for the Garbage Department, making a total of \$57,000 for keeping the streets and bridges of the city clean and in good repair. The amount of work in these departments, as more fully set forth in the reports of the Street Commissioner and Superintendent of the Garbage Department, involves a large expenditure under the present system and requires constant work to keep the streets clean and in a sanitary condition.

The garbage of the city is handled by twelve carts and two wagons. The city has been recently divided into twelve districts, with a cart assigned to each district, and the two wagons for extra service.

The Police and Fire Departments are very efficiently conducted, and for both of these departments an increased appropriation has been recommended for the current year to sustain them in their present state of efficiency.

For further and more detailed information regarding the various departments of the city, I refer to the annual reports of the heads of these departments now filed with the City Secretary, and to your consideration I refer the various recommendations made by the heads of these departments for the betterment of their service.

WORK OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

Omitting any reference to the general routine work of this administration, all of which has been accomplished in a most efficient and business-like manner, I desire to direct attention to some of the more important matters disposed of and yet under consideration.

In addition to being confronted with a depleted treasury when this administration was inducted into office, the first and most pressing obligation that presented itself was a delinquency of some \$30,000 due the teachers of the public schools for several months of unpaid salaries. This was the first financial obligation met by this administration, and while it was necessary to borrow the money to meet this and other pressing demands, such as overdue salaries to employes, etc., all of these obligations, bequeathed us by our predecessors, were promptly met and the affairs of the city have since been conducted upon a strictly cash basis, and this, taken in connection with the fact, as previously stated, that the floating debt during the eight and one-half months of our tenure of office has been reduced from \$127,181.37 to \$51,373.51, and the running expenses of the city reduced \$8,282.81 per month, are circumstances which, in my opinion, show very satisfactory results.

Among the first acts of this administration was the entering into a contract with Messrs. Haskins & Sells, Certified Public Accountants, to make an examination and audit of the records and accounts of the various departments of the city, covering a period from January 1, 1899, to April 14, 1902.

After seven months' work this firm has submitted a full and comprehensive report in detail, showing shortages, irregularities and discrepancies in the various departments of the city amounting in the aggregate to \$54,631.42, the details of which will appear fully set forth in their report, which is now the property of the Council.

Of this amount of shortage \$21,612.61 relates to the school fund as handled by an independent board of trustees.

In addition to this report, Messrs. Haskins & Sells are to install a new system of municipal accounting for the city, by the use of which it is proposed to reduce to a minimum the possibility of such shortages, irregularities and discrepancies occurring in the future.

I regard the work of Messrs. Haskins & Sells as having been well done, and consider the result as being well worth the contract price paid for its performance.

This administration has been the first in the history of the city to secure any substantial remuneration for the granting of a franchise. I refer to the settlement recently consummated with the Houston Electric Company, under the terms of which the city not only settled a long contested claim against the Electric Company, receiving what we demanded and thus averting a long, costly and tedious litigation, but we secured a contract under which the city receives in consideration of a ten year extension of franchise, an annual revenue of 1 and 2 per cent upon the gross earnings of the company, the aggregate minimum of which is guaranteed to be not less than \$2,500 per annum, which is, in addition to a further guarantee of several betterments of the service in the way of a transfer system, vestibuled cars, extension of lines, etc., all of which I regard as a very acceptable settlement of some stubborn differences existing for several years between the city and the Houston Electric Company, which differences would have continued to accumulate with the delay of adjustment.

Other difficult problems with which this administration was confronted, and which we inherited from preceding administrations, were the differences existing between the city and the light and water companies, both of which corporations still hold large accumulated claims against the city, the amount due the light company on January 1st being \$86,934.65 and the water company \$50,925.40. A compromise is now in progress with the light company, by which it is very likely that this debt will be very materially scaled.

The negotiations now pending with the view of purchasing the water plant is a subject with which you are thoroughly familiar.

Another important work accomplished by this administration has been the formulation of a new charter, the general purpose of

which is to more clearly define the line of demarkation between the Legislative, Executive and Administrative Departments of the government and place the administration of municipal affairs upon a business basis.

We have also provided for the construction of a new City Hall and Market House, to cost approximately \$90,000.

In conclusion I desire to compliment the members of the Council upon the harmony which has characterized your work, and to urge upon you to continue the same wise and progressive course which has already been productive of results fraught with material benefits to this community.

Respectfully submitted,

O. F. Holt

Mayor.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, January 10, 1903.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

D. D. BRYAN,

CITY SECRETARY AND EX-OFFICIO AUDITOR
CITY OF HOUSTON,

For the Year Ending
December 31, 1902.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, January 10, 1903.

HON. O. T. HOLT,
Mayor.

DEAR SIR—In compliance with your request, I desire to submit herewith the following statements, showing the financial condition of the city, etc., on December 31, 1902.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. D. Bryan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

City Secretary and Ex-officio Auditor.

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 1902.

Assets.*Available:***CASH.***In hands of Treasurer:*

General Fund.....	\$ 27,310.06	
Paving Fund	21,189.84	
Sewer Fund.....	9,024.00	
Market House Insur'ce Fund	11,975.86	
Fire Engine House Fund....	3,770.00	\$ 73,269.76

In other hands:

Assessor and Collector.....	\$110,437.47	
Board of Liquidation.....	60,479.97	
Police Department, Geo. Ellis	116.60	
City Sealer	2.00	171,036.04
Total Cash		\$ 244,305.80

Accounts Receivable:

Tax Rolls of Assessor and Collector prior to January 1, 1899.....	\$184,971.76	
Year 1899.....	28 589.43	
" 1900.....	44,797.56	
" 1901.....	66,149.55	
" 1902.....	207,962.96	\$ 532,471.26
Market House Insurance....		26,000.00
Scavenger		3,230.90
Miscellaneous		8,286.80
Houston Electric Co		82,540.00

Total Available Assets..... \$ 896,834.76

Contingent Assets:

Jno. S. Stewart.....	\$ 4,039.37
Shortages and Discrepancies	26,050.31

Total Contingent Assets 30,089.68

Not Available:

Property and Improvements, April 14, 1902.....	\$3,667,225.37
Improvements and Additions since.....	196,485.45

Total Not Available Assets 3,863,710.82

Grand Total Assets \$4,790,635.26

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 1902.

Liabilities.*Current Liabilities:*

Warrants drawn and unpaid.....	\$ 89,186.85	
Bills payable	95,715.97	
Accounts payable not covered by warrants	2,219.93	
Hipp & Key, balance on Preston St. paving	11,603.90	
H. Schurter, 20 per cent. reserve on Hardy St. Sewer	5,817.11	
Coupon interest.....	61,755.00	
Miscellaneous interest	2,116.90	
Total Current Liabilities		\$ 268,415.66

<i>Bonded Debt</i>	2,999,000.00
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Contingent Liabilities:

Houston Lighting & Power Co., they claim.	\$ 86,934.65	
Houston Water Co., they claim.....	50,925.40	
Refunding Paving Certificates	412,141.95	
Total Contingent Liabilities		550,002.00

<i>Market House Insurance Account</i>	38,993.50
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<i>Fire Engine House Account</i>	3,770.00
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Accounts Not Due:

Coupon interest.....	\$ 9,700.00	
Miscellaneous interest	318.64	
Total		10,018.64

<i>Certificates of Indebtedness favor R. C. Storrie..</i>	106,983.33
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<i>Excess of Assets over Liabilities</i>	813,452.13
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\$4,790,635.26

Comparative Statement of Departmental Revenues and Costs of Maintenance for the Years 1901 and 1902.

DEPARTMENT	COST OF MAINTENANCE				REVENUES			
	Jan. 1, 1902, April 14, 1902	April 14, 1902, Dec. 31, 1902	Total 1902	Total 1901	Jan. 1, 1902, April 14, 1902	April 14, 1902, Dec. 31, 1902	Total 1902	Total 1901
Street and Bridge.....	\$ 15,595.72	\$ 32,946.92	\$ 48,542.64	\$ 57,388.63				
Fire.....	21,442.17	44,541.09	65,983.26	66,184.07				
Health.....	6,778.92	8,990.08	15,769.00	22,806.44				
Police.....	19,564.76	42,933.90	62,498.66	62,274.97	\$ 3,080.60	\$ 9,522.90	\$12,603.50	\$ 9,891.90
Corporation Court.....	24.30	138.20	162.50	873.65				
Garbage.....	4,942.51	11,277.43	16,219.94	15,869.90				
Assessor and Collector.....	3,470.74	6,169.07	9,639.81	7,043.80				
Office Expenses.....	115.20	430.25	545.45	607.80				
Legal.....	1,965.36	4,531.01	6,496.37	15,815.22	1,585.36	451.43	2,036.79	2,254.15
Engineer.....	1,463.35	4,560.80	6,024.15	6,141.17	523.15	1,083.65	1,606.80	177.70
Electrical.....	889.90	4,223.75	5,113.65	4,063.62	244.30	1,257.10	1,501.40	947.30
Parks.....	2,488.45	3,213.48	5,701.93	13,518.65				
Salaries.....	5,184.67	12,885.91	18,070.58	14,764.46				
Houston Lyceum.....	2,000.00	2,400.00	4,400.00	2,400.00				
Electric Lights.....	5,100.00	16,086.50	21,186.50	26,680.00				
Water.....	7,364.46	12,027.00	19,391.46	16,120.55				
Schools.....	20,376.92	66,494.34	86,871.26	81,389.23				
Refunding Paving.....	28,187.48	23,698.26	51,885.74	30,204.65				
Sewer Plant.....	1,216.98	9,629.61	10,846.59	4,874.04	372.55	524.85	897.40	901.20
General Expenses.....	9,803.28	7,144.45	16,947.73	21,665.25				
Scavenger.....	4,459.03	11,527.57	15,986.60	13,330.62	3,730.80	11,441.20	15,172.00	13,465.55
Market.....	2,027.20	2,871.67	4,898.87	7,038.92	2,329.00	7,086.25	9,415.25	11,695.35
Boiler.....		367.50	367.50	439.50		390.00	390.00	375.00
Sealer.....				392.60	185.50	317.20	502.70	343.50
Totals.....	\$164,628.40	\$329,407.99	\$494,036.39	\$491,887.74	\$12,051.26	\$32,074.58	\$44,125.84	\$40,051.65

Net excess of revenues 1902 over 1901.....\$4,074.19.

An analysis of the above statement shows that the Departmental Expenditures

For the first 3½ months of the year 1902 under former administration averaged, per month.....\$47,036.69

While for the last 8½ months under present administration they averaged, per month.....38,753.88

A net reduction per month of.....\$ 8,282.81

BILLS PAYABLE

December 31, 1902.

IN FAVOR OF	DUE	AMOUNT
Frank Sawyer:		
7%, interest paid to Nov. 1, 1902.....	Nov. 1, 1903	\$3,000.00
7%, interest paid to Nov. 1, 1902.....	Nov. 1, 1903	1,500.00
7%, interest paid to Nov. 1, 1902.....	Nov. 1, 1903	1,500.00
O. & E. Witte:		
7%, interest paid to Jan. 10, 1903	Jan. 10, 1904	4,225.00
7%, interest paid to June 23, 1899	Dec. 15, 1901	4,225.00
C. F. & G. A. Byers:		
7%, interest paid to Sept. 23, 1902.....	Sept. 23, 1902	2,500.00
J. W. Sam:		
8%, interest paid to July 5, 1899	July 5, 1901	1,575.00
M. W. Myers:		
6%, interest paid to Jan. 10, 1903	Jan. 10, 1904	2,668.00
Gamewell Fire Alarm Co.:		
5% interest, date Jan. 1, 1902 ..	Sept. 28, 1902	1,250.00
5% interest, date Jan. 1, 1902	Sept. 28, 1903	1,250.00
La France Fire Engine Co.:		
6%, interest paid to Nov. 7, 1902.....	Nov. 7, 1902	2,900.00
6%, interest paid to Nov. 7, 1902.....	Nov. 7, 1903	2,900.00
6%, interest paid to Nov. 7, 1902.....	Nov. 7, 1904	2,900.00
American Fire Engine Co.:		
6% interest, date Nov. 4, 1901.....	Nov. 4, 1902	1,416.66
6% interest, date Nov. 4, 1901.....	Nov. 4, 1903	1,416.66
6% interest, date Nov. 4, 1901.....	Nov. 4, 1904	1,416.66
6% interest, date Dec. 27, 1901	Dec. 27, 1902	675.00
F. W. Heitman & Co.:		
6% interest, date April 3, 1902	July 3, 1902	500.00
6% interest, date April 3, 1902	July 3, 1902	500.00
6% interest, date April 3, 1902	July 3, 1902	534.72
South Texas National Bank:		
6%, 4 months from July 3, interest paid to Nov. 6, 1902.....	Dec. 6, 1902	12,000.00
Carried forward.....	.....	\$50,852.70

BILLS PAYABLE

December 31, 1902.

IN FAVOR OF	DUE	AMOUNT
Brought forward.....	.....	\$50,852.70
Planters & Mechanics National Bank: 6% interest, 3 months from Sept. 10.....	Dec. 10, 1902	11,000.00
South Texas National Bank: 6% interest, 3 months from Sept. 12.....	Dec. 12, 1902	11,000.00
6% interest, 3 months from Sept. 12.....	Dec. 12, 1902	6,000.00
Planters & Mechanics National Bank: 6% interest, 3 months from Sept. 12.....	Dec. 12, 1902	6,000.00
Robt. Bensberg: 5% interest, date Dec. 12, 1902	Dec. 12, 1903	1,000.00
5% interest, date Dec. 12, 1902	Dec. 12, 1904	1,000.00
5% interest, date Dec. 12, 1902	Dec. 12, 1905	680.00
Garrison Paving Brick Co.: 5% interest, date Dec. 17, 1902	Dec. 17, 1903	180.00
5% interest, date Dec. 17, 1902	Dec. 17, 1904	180.00
Jas. B. & Chas. Stubbs: 5% interest, date Dec. 26, 1902	Dec. 26, 1903	250.00
5% interest, date Dec. 26, 1902	Dec. 26, 1904	250.00
John Stadtler: 5% interest, date Dec. 30, 1902	Dec. 30, 1903	408.50
5% interest, date Dec. 30, 1902	Dec. 30, 1904	408.50
5% interest, date Dec. 30, 1902	Dec. 30, 1905	408.50
Lillienthal Bros.: 5% interest, date Dec. 31, 1902	Dec. 31, 1903	160.86
5% interest, date Dec. 31, 1902	Dec. 31, 1904	160.86
5% interest, date Dec. 31, 1902	Dec. 31, 1905	160.88
Gutta Percha & Rubber Co.: 5% interest, date Dec. 31, 1902	Dec. 31, 1903	1,871.72
5% interest, date Dec. 31, 1902	Dec. 31, 1904	1,871.72
5% interest, date Dec. 31, 1902	Dec. 31, 1905	1,871.73
Total.....	.....	\$95,715.97

**BONDED DEBT OF THE CITY
OF HOUSTON.**

30-year Consolidated Bonds	6%, issue 1876	\$ 14,000.00
30-year Funding Bonds	6%, issue 1882.....	524,000.00
30-year Compromise Bonds	6%, issue 1888.....	500,000.00
30-year Compromise Bonds	5%, issue 1888.....	503,000.00
40-year Public School Building	6%, issue 1894.....	100,000.00
40-year Bridge Building Bonds	5%, issue 1896.....	39,000.00
40-year Market House Funding.. ..	5%, issue 1897.....	109,000.00
40-year Paving and Sewer.....	5%, issue 1897.....	250,000.00
40-year School Building Bonds	5%, issue 1897.....	50,000.00
25-year School Building Refund	5%, issue 1898.....	60,000.00
40-year Paving and Sewer and Perma- nent Improvement.....	5%, issue 1898.....	100,000.00
40-year Paving and Sewer.....	5%, issue 1899.....	100,000.00
40-year Sewer and Sanitary System...5%	issue 1899.....	300,000.00
40-year Paving.....	5%, issue 1901.....	240,000.00
40-year Sewer.....	5%, issue 1901.....	60,000.00
40-year School Building	5%, issue 1901.....	50,000.00
Total Bonded Debt		\$2,999,000.00

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

ALEXANDER A. SZABO,

TREASURER OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON,

For the Year Ending
December 31, 1902.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, January 10, 1903.

HON. O. T. HOLT,
Mayor.

DEAR SIR—In obedience with the requirements of the charter, I beg to submit herewith my annual statement as City Treasurer for the year beginning January 1, 1902, and ending December 31, 1902.

GENERAL FUND.

January 1, 1902, *Balance* \$ 4,767.01

Receipts.

From Ad valorem Tax.....	\$469,649.24	
From Police	12,603.50	
From Market	9,415.25	
From Real Estate.....	11,035.32	
From Legal Expense.....	2,036.79	
From Electrical.....	1,501.40	
From Light Account.....	280.00	
From Sealer of Weights and Measures	486.20	
From Sewers.....	784.20	
From Boiler Inspections.....	390.00	
From Scavenger	15,096.00	
From Market House Insurance Loan.....	1,120.00	
From Franchise Tax.....	710.00	
From Bills Payable.....	116,500.00	
From Engineer's Department	1,606.80	
From Street and Bridge Department.....	669.62	
From Expense	50.00	
From Garbage.....	10.00	
From Fire Department Property	5,630.00	
From Fire Department Account.....	2.00	
From Judgments.....	267.10	
From Refunded Sewer Connections	113.20	
From Public Health.....	20.00	
From Public School Building Fund.....	40.77	\$650,017.39
Total.		\$654,784.40

GENERAL FUND.**Disbursements.**

For Assessor and Collector Account.....	\$ 8,062.73
For Engineer's Department Account.....	5,162.78
For Police Department Account.....	57,926.60
For Fire Department Account.....	62,488.81
For Public Health Department Account.....	13,978.59
For Street and Bridge Department Account.....	48,213.78
For Sewer Department Account.....	9,160.50
For Scavenger Department Account.....	14,135.55
For Electrical Department Account.....	2,411.76
For Garbage Department Account.....	15,403.32
For Salaries Account.....	33,171.40
For Corporation Court Account.....	448.05
For Sam Houston Park Account.....	5,030.82
For Legal Department Account.....	8,817.85
For Judgments Account.....	3 642.77
For Bills Payable Account.....	92,900.00
For Ad valorem Refund and Discounts.....	4,182.49
For Certificates of Paving.....	9,800.00
For Refunded Paving Coupons.....	41,542.86
For Public Schools Account.....	75,572.87
For Light Account.....	26,466.50
For Real Estate Account.....	10,871.66
For Houston Lyceum, Carnegie Library.....	4,400.00
For Market House Account.....	3,282.43
For Market Account.....	1,708.64
For Street and Bridge Property Account.....	1,781.10
For Fire Department Repairs.....	539.10
For Expense Account.....	9,865.10
For Boiler Inspections.....	367.50
For Paving and Sewers, Bond Expense.....	46.08
For Printing Account.....	2,216.87
For Pierce Avenue Sewer.....	32.80
For Chartres and German Street Paving.....	32.80
For Magnolia Street Drain.....	21.00
For Crematory Account.....	194.25
For Interest Account.....	5,308.28
For Sealer of Weights and Measures.....	515.95
For Water Account.....	19,453.21
For Board of Appraisement.....	910.08
For Live Stock Account.....	350.00
For Market House Insurance.....	5,074.37
For Board of Public Works.....	41.50
For Stables Account.....	2,697.92
For New Stables.....	154.54
For Sanitary Sewer System.....	7,867.26
For Election Expenses.....	1,927.30
For Fire Department Property.....	6,225.00
For Occupation Tax Refund.....	25.00
For New Market.....	31.92
For Special Sewer System.....	332.59
For Scavenger Property.....	700.00
For Indigent Sick.....	121.20
For Electric Property.....	95.00
For Street Curb Walls.....	125.00
For Fire Alarm Telegraph.....	1,450.25
For New Fire Engine House.....	153.61
For Insurance Account.....	35.00
Balance.....	27,310.06

Total.....

\$654,784.40

PAVING BOND FUND ACCOUNT.

January 1, 1902, *Balance*..... \$238,789.18

Receipts.

From Houston Electric Co.....	\$ 9,048.10	
From Harris County.....	3,976.46	
From Sale of Soil and Gravel.....	55.00	\$ 13,079.56
Total		\$251,868.74

Disbursements.

By Odin Ave. Paving, T. J. Shea Contract.....	\$ 27,927.68
By Odin Ave. Paving, Engineer's Account	474.05
By Odin Ave. Paving, Advertisements.....	32.22
By Congress Ave. Paving, Hipp & Key Contract	58,199.81
By Congress Ave. Paving, Engineer's Account..	790.40
By Heiner and Sabine St. Paving, T. J. Shea Cont.	13,763.63
By Heiner and Sabine St. Paving, Engineer's Acc.	134.35
By Commerce Ave. Paving, T. J. Shea Contract..	12,079.79
By Commerce Ave. Paving, Engineer's Account..	253.65
By Leeland Ave. Paving, Hipp & Key Contract...	25,457.97
By Leeland Ave. Paving, Engineer's Account....	348.21
By German St. Paving, Engineer's Account.....	37.92
By Hill St. Paving, Advertising Account	33.00
By Runnels St. Paving, Advertising Account...	29.04
By Fannin St. Paving, Engineer's Account.....	37.60
By San Jacinto St. Paving, Engineer's Account.	44.40
By Prairie Ave. Paving, Engineer's Account....	94.97
By Preston Ave. Paving, Hipp & Key Contract...	23,406.45
By Preston Ave. Paving, Engineer's Account....	869.93
By Travis St. Paving, Hipp & Key Contract	9,063.23
By Travis St. Paving, Engineer's Account	379.88
By Sundry Estimates of Paving, Hipp & Key Cont.	29,072.79
By Gabel St. Paving, G. B. Wiles Contract.....	3,596.85
By Gabel St. Paving, Engineer's Account.....	162.00
By Franklin Ave. Paving, Hipp & Key Contract.	23,744.80
By Franklin Ave. Paving, Engineer's Account..	644.28
Balance	21,189.84
Total	\$251,868.74

SEWER BOND FUND ACCOUNT.

January 1, 1902, *Balance*..... \$ 40,347.09

Disbursements.

By Hardy St. Sewer, H. Shurter Contract.....	\$ 16,338.20
By Hardy St. Sewer, Engineer's Account.....	1,103.70
By Franklin and Preston Ave. Sewer, Houston Plumbing Co. Contract.....	3,791.47
By Franklin and Preston Ave. Sewer, Engineer's Account.....	198.40
By Magnolia St. Sewer, G. B. Wiles Contract ..	3,433.40
By Magnolia St. Sewer, Engineer's Account	70.95
By Magnolia St. Sewer, Advertising Account...	71.82
By Capitol Ave. Sewer, J. W. Thiel Contract...	573.16
By Capitol Ave. Sewer, Engineer's Account.....	42.80
By Pierce Ave. Sewer, J. W. Thiel Contract	144.86
By Jackson St. Sewer, Engineer's Account	10.35
By Hogan St. Sewer, Engineer's Account	29.04
By Filter Beds, T. J. Shea Contract.....	5,514.94
Balance.....	9,024.00
Total	\$ 40,347.09

MARKET HOUSE INSURANCE ACCOUNT.

January 1, 1902, *Balance*..... \$ 1,996.00

Receipts.

To Insurance Account.....	\$ 12,000.00
Total	\$ 13 996.00

Disbursements.

By Exchange Account	\$ 2.50
By F. S. Glover, Architect	1,000.00
By Gamewell Fire Alarm Co., Note.....	1,000.00
By Gamewell Fire Alarm Co., Interest.....	17.64
Balance.....	11,975.86
Total	\$ 13,996.00

PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNT.**Receipts.**

To Public School Warrants paid.....	\$ 17,384.28
To City Appropriation by Check	58,188.59
Total	\$ 75,572.87

Disbursements.

By J. J. Settegast, Treasurer School Board, Warrants.....	\$ 17,384.28
By J. J. Settegast, Treasurer School Board, Checks.....	58,000.00
By Treasurer's Commission.....	188.59
Total	\$ 75,572.87

FIRE DEPARTMENT PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

May 31, 1902, to Proceeds of Sale of Engine House.	\$ 3,000.00	
June 7, 1902, to Proceeds of Sale of Engine House.	2,550.00	
Total.....		\$ 5,550.00

Disbursements.

By J. W. Miller Purchase of Lot.....	\$ 1,780.00	
Balance.....	3,770.00	
Total.....		\$ 5,550.00

SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM ACCOUNT.

January 1, 1902, <i>Balance</i>	\$ 16,022.08
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Receipts.

To Market House Insurance Fund, Loan	\$ 3,954.37	
To General Fund	42.56	\$ 3,996.93
Total.....		\$ 20,019.01

Disbursements.

By Labor Pay Rolls.....	\$ 951.50	
By Inspection Account.....	400.00	
By Sewer Pipe and Cement Account.....	155.40	
By T. J. Shea Contract.....	18,512.11	
Total.....		\$ 20,019.01

I, Alexander A. Szabo, Treasurer of the City of Houston, do solemnly swear that the foregoing is a true and correct report of the financial condition of said city, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

ALEXANDER A. SZABO,
Treasurer of the City of Houston, Texas.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 12th day of January, 1903.

[SEAL]

E. Y. SPEED,
Notary Public, Harris Co., Texas.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

JAMES P. WELSH,

CITY ASSESSOR AND COLLECTOR.

SHOWING COLLECTION AND
DISPOSITION OF TAXES

For the Year Ending
December 31, 1902.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, January 10, 1903.

HON. O. T. HOLT,
Mayor.

DEAR SIR—In compliance with your request, I herewith enclose you a report of all taxes collected by this office from January 1 to December 31, 1902. Also disposition made of same, and a report showing amount of taxes assessed for the year and remaining unpaid on December 31, 1902.

**Report of City Taxes Collected
for the Year 1902.**

MONTH	1	2	3	4	5	6
Jan.....		\$167,604.94	\$ 182.50	\$ 117.50	\$ 5,696.55	\$173,601.49
Feb.....		27,089.76	302.62	74.00	4,721.00	32,187.38
March.....		40,494.58	1,207.44	616.50	2,150.00	44,468.52
April.....		6,752.95	410.75	302.00	3,215.25	10,680.95
May.....		13,904.84	580.62	615.05	3,376.50	18,477.01
June.....		2,742.74	403.26	251.45	2,401.50	5,798.95
July.....		1,720.50	128.45	152.00	606.50	2,607.45
Aug.....	\$103,776.91	4,952.50	105.26	117.00	1,276.60	110,228.27
Sept.....	82,237.92	1,700.30	169.50	117.00	1,427.50	85,652.22
Oct.....	50,922.71	3,068.80	151.45	82.00	499.20	54,724.16
Nov.....	9,740.42	1,438.63	334.65	127.00	673.75	12,314.45
Dec.....	173,914.79	1,090.07	129.64	97.00	291.75	175,523.25
Total..	\$420,592.75	\$272,560.61	\$4,106.14	\$2,668.50	\$26,336.10	\$726,264.10

- 1—Real estate, personal and poll taxes for 1902.
- 2—Real estate, personal and poll taxes prior to 1902.
- 3—Interest on taxes prior to 1902.
- 4—Costs on taxes prior to 1902.
- 5—Occupation taxes.
- 6—Total taxes collected.

**Disposition of Funds Collected as City Taxes
for the Year 1902.**

MONTH	1	2	3	4
January	\$ 40,000.00	\$133,101.49	\$ 500.00	\$173,601.49
February	14,000.00	18,187.38	.....	32,187.38
March	11,500.00	32,122.89	845.63	44,468.52
April	2,000.00	8,680.95	.....	10,680.95
May	3,000.00	15,477.01	.....	18,477.01
June	2,550.00	3,248.95	.....	5,798.95
July	2,000.00	607.45	.....	2,607.45
August.....	49,232.62	60,995.65	.....	110,228.27
September	15,000.00	70,652.22	.....	85,652.22
October .....	.....	54,724.16	.....	54,724.16
November.....	6,000.00	6,314.45	.....	12,314.45
December.....	35,000.00	140,523.25	.....	175,523.25
Total.....	\$180,282.62	\$544,635.85	\$1,345.63	\$726,264.10

1—Amounts deposited to the credit of the Board of Liquidation.

2—Amounts deposited with City Treasurer.

3—Amounts paid to J. S. Stewart, by order of the Finance Committee.

4—Total disbursements for the months shown.

Total Taxes Assessed for the Year 1902.

Rendered Roll	\$471,076.08
Unrendered Roll.....	116,490.90
Unknown Roll	31,898.76
Supplemental Roll.....	6,274.80

Total.....\$625,740.54

Less amount collected up to and including Dec. 31, 1902..... 420,592.75

Balance taxes for 1902 uncollected Dec. 31, 1902.....\$205,147.79

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES P. WELSH,
Assessor and Collector of Taxes.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

F. L. DORMANT,

CITY ENGINEER,

For the Year Ending
December 31, 1092.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, January 10, 1903.

HON. O. T. HOLT,

Mayor.

DEAR SIR—I have the honor to submit this my annual report of work done in the Engineering Department during the year 1902. While my tenure of office as City Engineer dates only from April 22d, I have compiled, as far as I have been able, information showing the work done from January 1st, to date.

In this report will be found a statement showing the status of the various engineering works upon which the city was engaged at the date of my assuming charge of this department, also tabulations showing the present state of the sewer system, a statement showing the amounts expended through this department on the different pavements, etc., together with a distribution of the engineering expenses connected with the same.

I have, perhaps, elaborated a little more on some subjects than would be strictly called for in a report of this kind, but in view of the phase of reconstruction which the engineering features of the city are undergoing, I deemed it wise to enlarge somewhat upon the needs and necessities of these features and to dwell at some length upon the questions to be encountered upon their reconstruction and enlargement.

I desire to extend my thanks, Mr. Mayor, to yourself and to the City Council and to the different committees and boards with whom I have had dealings, for the uniform courtesy extended to me.

I also desire to extend my thanks to employees of this department for the efficiency and loyalty which they have shown in the discharge of their various duties during the year.

I have the honor to be

Yours respectfully,

F. L. DORMANT,

City Engineer.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE STATUS OF THE VARIOUS CONTRACTS
FOR PAVING IN FORCE AT THE TIME OF MY ASSUMING
CHARGE OF THIS DEPARTMENT APRIL 22, 1902.

	Time Limit to Complete.
Congress Avenue, Milam to Caroline.....	40 working days.
Congress Avenue, Caroline to Chartres.....	60 working days.
Notified to commence work November 19, 1901, within 30 days.	
Commenced work January 8, 1902.	
Work about three-fourths completed.	
Preston Avenue, Bridge to Caroline.....	60 working days.
Preston Avenue, Bridge to Washington.....	30 working days.
Notified to commence work January 24, 1902, within thirty days.	
Work not yet commenced.	
Prairie Avenue, Travis to Fannin.	30 working days.
Notified to commence work January 10, 1902, within 30 days.	
Work not yet commenced.	
Franklin Avenue, Bridge to San Jacinto.....	40 working days.
Notified to commence work February 11, 1902, within 30 days.	
Work not yet commenced.	
Travis Street, Commerce to Texas.....	40 working days.
Notified to commence work February 11, 1902.	
Work not yet commenced.	
Commerce Avenue, Bridge to Fannin.....	30 working days.
Notified to commence work February 11, 1902, within 30 days.	
Commenced work March, 13, 1902.	
Work under fair progress.	
Odin and Lyons, Carr to city limits.....	60 working days.
No record of notice to commence work.	
Commenced work December 6, 1901.	
Completed work February 24, 1902, within time limit, allowing for bad weather and change in width of street.	
Leeland Avenue, Louisiana to Crawford.....	45 working days.
Notified to commence work January 10, 1902.	
Commenced work March 3, 1902.	
Work under good progress.	
Hardy Street, Conti to Noble.....	60 working days.
No notice to commence work owing to delays in the construction of Hardy Street sewer. Agreement with contractor to de- lay until further notice.	
Heiner and Sabine Sts., San Felipe to Washington..	40 working days.
Notified to commence work February 11, 1902.	
Commenced work February 19, 1902.	
Work completed April 17, 1902, within time limit, allowing for bad weather.	

Contract for gravel paving on Chartres and German Streets awarded to Hipp & Key September 23, 1901. Time limit—no record.

Notified to commence work within 3 days from November 19, 1901. Work not yet started. Reason assigned—Street Railway Company not having graded and shifted track to proper line, etc.

Contract for brick paving on Gabel Street from Maple Place to G. H. & H. R. R. crossing let to G. B. Wiles.

No notice given to contractor to commence work, but material is now being placed on the ground.

The Sanitary Sewer System.

This is really a misnomer, as will be shown later on. The accompanying map shows the sewers now built and in operation. The green lines indicate storm sewers and the red lines indicate combined sewers, or sewers discharging both surface water and sanitary matter.

From an inspection of this map we have the following districts:

1st—La Branch District. This district was originally constructed exclusively for sanitary purposes, but since its completion ten catch basins conveying storm water have been connected to this sewer. The sizes of vitrified pipe run from 8 inches to 24 inches.

2nd—San Felipe District. This district, as originally constructed, was upon the combined system, carrying both sanitary matter and storm water, and is now so maintained. Sizes of vitrified pipe are from 8 inches to 18 inches, and brick from 33 inches to 45 inches. Sixty-four catch basins are connected to this district.

3d—Caroline District. This district, or rather the Caroline Street brick sewer, was originally constructed for storm water drainage, but in later years lateral sewers for both sanitary and storm water drainage have been added to same. Forty-one catch basins are connected to this district. The sizes run from 8 inches to 24 inches, vitrified pipe, and 36 inches to 54 inches, brick.

4th—Washington District. This district was constructed on the combined system, has twenty-six catch basin connections and the sizes of pipe run from 8 inches to 24 inches. Evidently when this system was constructed no consideration was given to the area to be covered in handling storm water, hence the main trunk sewer on Preston Avenue and Washington Street is notoriously too small to carry off the surface drainage intended for it.

5th—Buffalo District. This district was constructed on the combined system, and has eighteen catch basins connected, and the diameters of pipes range from 18 inches to 24 inches. These sizes are entirely too small to properly handle the storm water.

All of the above named districts are connected with the intercepting sewer, excepting the Buffalo Street District and a portion of the Caroline District. There are quite a number of private sewers used for sanitary purposes, having outlets into the bayou, which however, under our sanitary regulations, can be prevented at any time deemed necessary, and the premises connected with the city's system.

The intercepting sewer collects the discharge from the different districts mentioned, and conveys it across the Buffalo and White Oak Bayous into the receiving basin at the pumping station, and from there it is pumped through a 24 inch force main to the disposal grounds some two miles outside of the city limits. As heretofore stated, there are as many as 138 catch basins connected with sewers, discharging storm water, street refuse, sand and other matters into our sewer systems, and with the present arrangements there are usually stoppages and overflows in the case of even light rains.

It is a well known fact that the City of Houston has outgrown its present system of sewers, and that some of the best portions of the city are without any sanitary sewerage at all.

This office is now engaged in designing systems on the sepa-

rate plan for each ward and care will be taken to provide for sizes and grades commensurate for the future extension of the city limits, so that any new territory which may be acquired will have the benefit of sanitary sewerage.

Surface Drainage.

The City of Houston has never had in the past any systematized drainage scheme. Located as this city is, along a water front, it has every facility for getting rid of its surface water.

Instead of this, a large portion of it is drained in a direction away from the bayou, contrary to the laws of nature.

As a city grows, and its vacant lots are built up, the rainfall is no longer held back or absorbed by the exposed surface of the ground, but it runs off and seeks the lower portions of the territory and is finally disposed of by natural waterways, or by sewers which discharge into natural waterways. Hence, for drainage purposes, it is necessary to determine the amount of water reaching the sewers. This amount is, of course, variable, and at certain times depends also on the amount of moisture in the air and the ground. For if at the beginning of a storm the air and ground are already saturated from previous rains, the amount of evaporation and absorption will be small, and more water reaches the sewers. Another factor in the amount reaching the sewers is the relation between impervious areas, such as roofs, paved streets, etc., to the total area considered.

Practice has established the rule, that for drainage purposes, the ratio of the storm sewage to the total precipitation can be assumed to be the same as that existing between impervious and total areas.

The next factor in drainage is the size and natural slope of the area under consideration; the greater the area and the more level its surface, the greater will be the time for the rain to reach the sewers, and the greater, of course, the chances for evaporation and

absorption. Hence the percentage of water reaching the sewers will gradually increase during protracted storms until the farthest areas begin to discharge their precipitation into the system.

In calculating the sizes of storm water sewers it is very important to determine the quantity of water which is liable to fall on the unit of surface, and right here is where there is a cause for serious and costly mistakes, because if we underestimate the quantity, the sewer will be too small, and will cause the water to stand in the streets by backing up in the catch basins, and if we overestimate this unit, we make the work unnecessarily expensive.

On June 4, 1871, there fell in Galveston, Texas, for four minutes, a quantity of seventeen cubic feet per second, per acre, which is equivalent to ten and one-half inches per acre per hour.

To determine the size of storm water sewers to handle such a rainfall would, of course, bankrupt any city, yet it is advisable to figure on about three inches per hour rainfall. When the maximum rate of fall does not cease before the run-off from the entire area has reached its lowest point, then for this area, the run-off will be independent of the slope. But when the maximum rate ceases before this takes place, the slope will have a decided influence upon the quantity of water accumulated.

This department has just begun a drainage survey of the city, and the territory adjacent thereto shedding its surface water on us, and which we have to take care of in addition to that which falls within the limits of the city.

Sewers.

On my taking charge of the Sewer Department, neither the pumping station nor the disposal plant was in operation. A thorough examination of the receiving basin at the end of the intercepting sewer at Milam and Commerce Streets disclosed the fact that the basin was filled up to the top with dirt, debris, etc. A

similar examination of the siphons showed both of them to be clogged up from end to end.

A similar condition of affairs existed at the pumping plant. After constructing and placing screens in the receiving basin at Milam and Commerce Streets, and at the beginning of the White Oak Bayou siphons, cleaning and recaulking every joint thereof, and the construction of relief valves, etc., I finally succeeded in putting this part of the plant in operation on the 22d day of May, 1902, after an expenditure of \$1,300, and it has been in operation ever since. An examination of the force main to the filter beds has disclosed numerous leaky joints, owing to bad workmanship in the laying of the pipe, and where so discovered they have been repaired.

The Purification Plant.

This consists first, of an elevated "coke strainer," so-called in the specifications, and second, of sand filters.

1st—The coke strainers consist of eight inches of coke on six inches of broken stone, underdrained by vitrified pipe, the joints of which are wrapped with muslin.

2nd—The sand filters consist of two and one-half feet of sand underdrained by four-inch tile pipe.

The force main consists of 4.76 miles of 24-inch cast iron pipe.

The sewerage after being discharged by the siphons into the receiving basin at the pumping plant, is pumped to the purification plant by means of centrifugal pumps.

In intermittent filtration, the work of purification is done by bacteria, by the aid of oxygen contained in the air (aerobic bacteria).

The carbon of the organic matter is changed to carbon di-oxide, carbonic acid; the nitrogen combined with hydrogen forming ammonia; this in turn is oxidized to nitrous acid, then to nitric, which, combining with mineral matters, forms nitrates.

The fluid, after passing through the coke beds, flows thence

over the sand beds heretofore mentioned, and passes off through tiling laid in the bottom of these beds.

The Condition of the Filter Beds.

The majority of the pipes, both in the coke beds and sand beds, will have to be relaid, on account of bad workmanship during construction.

Hundreds of holes have appeared in the sand beds, indicating that the sand is being washed away into the pipes. Two of the sand beds will have to be reconstructed. The pipes carrying the sewage to the sand beds are also leaking badly and need relaying.

On account of the absence of a detritus tank or settling reservoir, the coke beds are being clogged up badly, causing additional expense in cleaning. The brick dwelling house on the grounds has never been finished, the roof leaks badly, and the chimney was omitted entirely.

When the coke bed nearest the house is being used, the sewage leaks into the house through the walls. A cistern is badly needed, as there are no wells in the vicinity of the purification plant.

Anyone visiting the plant can judge for himself that the effluent, as finally discharged, is not what it should be; in other words, it is not being discharged as pure as modern practice demands.

There is no reason why the system of purification aimed at, if properly constructed, should not be a success, as it is elsewhere.

As the disposal of sewage has now practically passed the experimental stage, I think it worth while to digress some on the present status of this branch of municipal engineering.

Scavenger Disposal Plant.

The object of this structure is to dispose of the night soil as collected, by dumping it into a receptacle connected with the receiving basin, at the sewage pumping station, where it drops near the suction of the large centrifugal pump, which is capable of handling 4,000 gallons per minute.

The credit of this improvement is due to Hon. Jas. A. Thompson, Alderman of the Second Ward, and to Hon. O. T. Holt, Mayor. It will save the city thousands of dollars each year, and will practically dispense with the dumping grounds.

It has been constructed of bricks from the old Market House, has an internal diameter of twenty feet, flushing arrangements, and also an arrangement for washing the barrels after they have been emptied.

The plant is now ready for operation, but owing to the fact that the governor spring of the fly-wheel of the pumping engine having been broken, and of our inability of getting a new one promptly, we will be compelled to wait until a new one arrives before starting up.

Domestic Water Pressure Found in Hydrants in Business Sections of the City at 3 P. M. September 12, 1902.

Southwest corner of Preston and Caroline Streets.....	47.5 lbs.
Southeast corner of Preston and Fannin Streets.....	50.0 lbs.
Southeast corner of Preston and Main Streets.....	51.0 lbs.
Northeast corner of Main and Prairie Streets.....	48.0 lbs.
Southeast corner of Main and Texas Streets.....	46.0 lbs.
Northeast corner of Main and Capitol Streets.....	48.0 lbs.
Northeast corner of Main and Rusk Streets.....	48.0 lbs.
Southeast corner of Main and Walker Streets.....	47.5 lbs.
Northwest corner of Main and Dallas Streets.....	47.0 lbs.
Northwest corner of Main and Preston Streets.....	52.0 lbs.
Southwest corner of Main and Congress Streets.....	51.0 lbs.
Southwest corner of Travis and Congress Streets.....	52.0 lbs.
Northwest corner of Travis and Preston Streets.....	54.0 lbs.
Northeast corner of Milam and Preston Streets.....	53.0 lbs.
Southeast corner of Milam and Preston Streets.....	54.0 lbs.

NOTE.—The above table was intended to be inserted in my Waterworks Report.

Recommendations.

1st—The passage of a sidewalk ordinance which can be enforced.

2nd—A revision of the present plumbing ordinance.

3d—The establishment of the grades of each street in the city,

profile to be adopted by the City Council and filed with the City Secretary, thus enabling property holders who wish to put in permanent sidewalks to have the curbing set at a permanent elevation, which will remain if the street should afterwards be paved.

4th—To put in sanitary sewers in all streets prior to paving same, and run connections up to curb line on both sides of the street.

5th—The passage of a building ordinance defining the thickness of walls, fireproof construction, etc.

6th—A rigid separation of sanitary sewers from storm sewers.

7th—The establishment of a standard distance between curb lines on streets of each given width.

8th—The construction of detritus tanks at the disposal plant, to separate the insoluble matter in the sewerage which cannot be liquified, so as to prevent the silting of the beds.

9th—A revision of the present ordinance governing the issuance of building permits, so as to establish a cost or fee for each permit, which shall be in proportion to the cost of the building for which issued.

10th—A revision of Article 54 of the Revised Code of Ordinances, relating to the fees to be charged by this office for surveys, with a view of making the charges a little more definite.

11th—That no more streets shall be paved without first putting in storm sewers, and until the drainage survey now in progress shall have been completed.

12th—I recommend that the city purchase a steam roller of ten tons weight. This would be very useful, as there are repairs always being made to our pavements, where a roller is an absolute necessity, and for future gravel pavements. Such a machine would also prove to be a source of income to the city when not being used by the city, as it could be rented out.

13th—I especially recommend that the street names be revised.

There are numerous instances, notably in the Fifth Ward, where the streets running east and west have different names on different parts of their length. There are also several instances of two streets of the same name in different parts of the city. These duplications cause great inconvenience at times and give annoyance to the postal authorities in delivering mail matter.

14th—I recommend that the city purchase a ditching machine, for use in digging and cleaning ditches. These are now dug by hand labor, and a machine, besides doing the work quicker, would save enough to the city in one year to pay for itself.

Asphalt Pavement.

The first asphalt pavement was laid in Houston on Willow and Liberty Streets, in 1897. This pavement has not been a success, owing to its having been laid in the winter time. It is in a bad condition, especially on Willow Street, where there is an enormous traffic. The pavement on Liberty Street is not so bad, though it is cracked from one end to the other.

Besides the mistake of laying asphalt in the winter time, there are other causes for the failure of asphalt pavements, such as the expansion of the concrete base, as evidenced on Main Street near Walker. An excess of asphaltine also makes a pavement hard and liable to crack and disintegrate. Present experience indicates that the life of a street paved with asphalt under ordinary traffic is from twelve to fifteen years before relaying, and should cost not more than six cents per yard per year for maintenance after a five-year guarantee.

Maintenance During Guarantee Period.

It is best to award a contract to responsible parties to keep a certain number of streets in repair for a term of five years at a specified price per year for material in bulk, including all streets of which the guarantee expires during the contract period. By this plan it would be for the contractor's interest to keep the street in good condition at all times.

Defects in Pavements.

Defects in pavements in this city during maintenance are being caused by:

1st—Standing traffic.

2nd—Imperfect drainage, causing water to stand in gutters; by piling street sweepings against gutter, and by water standing in depressions.

3d—Fireburns.

4th—Escapement of illuminating gas.

5th—Oil drippings from kerosene wagons.

6th—Center-bearing and side-bearing rails and tothing stones.

7th—Constant moisture and disintegration if excessively sprinkled.

Repairs to Asphalt Pavements.

Repairs on asphalt pavements should be made quickly as soon as discovered, on account of the material having little coherence, and if put off, the breaks or holes rapidly assume larger dimensions by passing wheels and other traffic. During bad weather no repairs should be allowed on asphalt pavements, and patches made during winter ought to be considered only as temporary and should be replaced in the spring. In the revised specifications now being prepared by me, the item of repairs to asphalt pavements, and especially the specifications for the condition of asphalt pavements at the end of the guarantee period, will be considered.

The Committee on Street Pavements of the American Society of Municipal Improvement recommends the following specifications:

SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE CONDITION OF ASPHALT PAVEMENTS AT THE END OF THE GUARANTEE PERIOD.

1st—The pavement shall not be reduced more than one-fourth (1-4) inch from the original thickness at the end of the first five

years, nor more than one-half (1-2) inch from the original thickness at the end of the first ten years. (This requirement shall not apply to pavements constructed of rock asphalt, as this material does not receive its ultimate compression for a considerable period after being laid.)

2nd—Places which show a disintegration of the material shall be removed to the binder or concrete foundation, as found necessary, and replaced with new material having the same thickness and conforming to the adjacent pavement.

3d—All elevations or depressions three-eighths (3-8) of an inch or more above or below the general surface of the street shall be brought to the same elevation as the general surface, these elevations and depressions to be determined by measuring from a straight-edge four (4) feet in length, placed on the surface of the pavement parallel to the line of curbing. (In making such repairs the process known as “skimming” may be employed.)

4th—Where elevations or depressions are due to the failure of the concrete foundation from any cause, the asphalt and concrete shall both be removed a length and width to include the entire defect. If the failure is due to buckling of the concrete, the new foundation shall consist of broken stone thoroughly compacted, and of the same thickness as the original concrete. In all other cases a new foundation of concrete shall be placed of the same quality and thickness as the original construction. Upon the foundation shall be placed the pavement, of the same thickness as the adjacent surfaces.

5th—Cracks which show any indication of disintegration, or which are three-eighths (3-8) of an inch or more in width, shall be cut out to the binder or concrete foundation, as found necessary, a length and width sufficient to include the entire portion affected; this portion to be replaced with new material of the same quality and thickness as shown in the pavement adjacent thereto.

6th—Should it be found necessary to replace twenty-five (25) per cent or more of any section of the street with new material, the entire section shall be resurfaced.

The Guarantee.

The question of guarantee, its length and exact meaning are very important. Sometimes the cost of guarantee has been included in the original price per square yard. In other cases the contract has provided for the original price per square yard, the

pavement to be maintained without expense for five years, and then for an additional five years at a specified price per year.

The specifications of New York City provide that upon completion of the work 70 per cent of the contract price should be paid; of the remaining 30 per cent, one-tenth was paid each year, beginning five years from the date of the final acceptance. The present contracts call for a guarantee of ten years, with a reserve of 20 per cent, one-fifth of which shall be paid each year, beginning as above, five years from the completion of the work.

Again, Brooklyn pays in full upon the completion of the work, and relies wholly on the bond of a five-year guarantee.

Omaha has a five-year guarantee, but holds back 15 per cent until the end of the guaranteed period. The contractor in this case was allowed to purchase city bonds, which were deposited with the city treasurer, in lieu of the reserve, and thus drew interest on amount withheld.

Brick Pavement.

The first brick pavement in Houston was laid in 1894, on Texas Avenue. Since then rapid strides have been made in the manufacture of paying bricks, and today we have a brick which is thoroughly burned and annealed.

Some of the defects in our earlier brick pavements are caused by the lack of uniformity in the quality of the brick, some bricks being soft and porous. A rigid inspection of the brick before using could have obviated this.

The best foundation for brick pavement, in my opinion, is a concrete foundation, not less than six (6) inches in thickness, with two (2) inches of clean, sharp sand, though on one street in the city, Commerce Avenue, a gravel foundation has been used with excellent results, mostly due to thorough rolling and sprinkling.

Of great importance to the durability of a brick pavement, is

the character of the material used in filling the joints between the bricks, so as to prevent water from reaching the foundation and to protect the edges of the brick. A cement filler is considered to be the best, consisting of two parts of high grade Portland cement and one part of sand, with enough water to make a thin grout. There is, however, one objection to a rigid joint made by cement grouting, which is the difficulty with which cuts are made in the pavement, on account of so many bricks being broken in taking them up, and the cost of cleaning them again before relaying.

As to the life of brick pavements, the writer knows of pavements of this character which are fifty years old and still in good condition.

The long time guarantee called for in asphalt pavements is unnecessary in brick pavements, but I would recommend a nine-months guarantee for this class of pavements in all future contracts.

Real Estate Owned by City.

STATEMENT SHOWING REAL ESTATE OWNED BY THE CITY ACCORDING TO DEEDS ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE.

Anton Brunner.....	Engine House Property.
Lot 1. Brunner tract.	Recorded vol. 143, p. 399, deeds.
Consideration \$1,800.	Deed dated Oct. 1, —.
A. J. Raphael, et ux.....	Colored School.
114.5x130 in block 27.	Recorded vol. 28, p. 356, deeds.
Consideration \$1,500.	Deed dated August 3, 1883.
Harris County.....	City Court.
Lots 9, 10 and 11, block 48.	Recorded vol. 83, p. 460, deeds.
Consideration \$25,000.	Deed dated June 18, 1895.
S. W. Young, et ux.....	City Park.
Lots 2, 3, 6, 7, 14, 15, 18, 19, block 2	Recorded vol. 126, p. 526, deeds.
Consideration \$2,000.	Deed dated June 30, 1899.
Protection Fire Company.....	Engine House Property.
One-half lot 3, block 69.	Recorded vol. 86, pp. 559-62, deeds.
Consideration \$7,500.	Deed dated November 18, 1895.
First National Bank.....	Pumping Station.
One-half block 64.	Recorded vol. 130, p. 124, deeds.
Consideration \$18,840.	Deed dated April 6, 1900.

J. Kennedy and F. W. Spencer....	Engine House Property.
Lots 3 and 4, block 22.	Recorded vol. 24, pp.118-20, deeds.
Consideration \$200.	Deed dated March 3, 1882.
Wm. Kummer.....	Pest House.
Block 27.	Recorded vol. 120, p. 544, deeds.
Consideration \$375.	Deed dated June 11, 1900.
A. K. Anderson.....	Tax Judgment.
Lots 7 and 8, block 1.	Recorded vol. 141, p. 598, deeds.
Consideration \$68.26.	Deed dated October 17, 1899.
M. W. Meyer.....	City Stable and Crematory.
3.82 acres.	Recorded vol.126, pp.521-22, deeds.
Consideration \$1,500.	Deed dated February 6, 1899.
Charlotte M. Allen.....	Market House Property.
Block 34.	Recorded vol. 78, p. 330, deeds.
Consideration \$——.	Deed dated January 12, 1895.
G. A., S. E. and C. F. Byers.....	City Park.
5.28 acres.	Recorded vol. 115, p. 156, deeds.
Consideration \$9,000.	Deed dated January 21, 1899.
Houston L. & T. Co.....	Engine House Property.
Lot 9, block 289.	Recorded vol. 85, p. 364, deeds.
Consideration \$350.	Deed dated January 20, 1895.

Pavements by Wards.

	Lineal Feet
FIRST WARD....Asphalt	3,300
Brick.....	2,500
Gravel.....	2,100
Bois d'Arc	600
SECOND WARD..Asphalt	2,300
Brick.....	6,500
Bois d'Arc.....	300
Gravel.....	5,700
Macadam.....	2,000
THIRD WARD....Asphalt.	14,000
Brick.....	19,500
Bois d'Arc.....	6,200
Gravel.....	5,400
Macadam.....	5,400
FOURTH WARD..Asphalt.....	5,300
Brick.....	6,100
Bois d'Arc.....	7,100
Gravel.....	10,700
FIFTH WARD....Asphalt.....	6,100
Brick.....	6,400
Gravel.....	8,800
Shell	2,300
SIXTH WARD....Asphalt.....	2,250
Brick.....	7,700

Total Pavements.

Asphalt.....	33,250 lineal feet, or 6.29 miles.
Brick.....	48,700 lineal feet, or 9.22 miles.
Gravel.....	32,700 lineal feet, or 6.19 miles.
Bois d'Arc.....	14,200 lineal feet, or 2.69 miles.
Macadam.....	7,400 lineal feet, or 1.40 miles.
Shell.....	2,300 lineal feet, or 0.43 miles.
Total.....	<u>26.22 miles.</u>

Distribution of Sewers.

FIRST WARD....	Sanitary.....	9,750 lineal feet.
SECOND WARD..	Sanitary.....	15,300 lineal feet.
	Combined.....	4,000 lineal feet.
	Storm.....	5,100 lineal feet.
THIRD WARD...	Sanitary.....	77,600 lineal feet.
	Combined.....	1,734 lineal feet.
	Storm.....	12,500 lineal feet.
FOURTH WARD..	Sanitary.....	35,100 lineal feet.
	Storm.....	3,400 lineal feet.
FIFTH WARD....	Storm.....	16,200 lineal feet.
	Force Main.....	9,500 lineal feet.
SIXTH WARD....	Sanitary.....	2,000 lineal feet.
	Combined.....	5,000 lineal feet.

Street Car Mileage.MEASUREMENTS OF STREET CAR TRACKS IN CITY OPERATED BY THE
HOUSTON ELECTRIC COMPANY.

Washington Avenue.....	16,733 feet.
Houston Avenue.....	2,729 feet.
Fannin-Travis.....	21,119 feet.
McGowan Avenue.....	734 feet.
Louisiana Avenue.....	13,247 feet.
Aransas Pass Line.....	15,777 feet.
Volkfest Line.....	12,634 feet.
Liberty Avenue.....	17,315 feet.
Montgomery Avenue.....	4,151 feet.
San Felipe Avenue.....	17,902 feet.
LaBranch Street.....	14,953 feet.
Congress-Preston.....	9,841 feet.
Main Street—double track and switches....	4,227.5 feet.
Austin-LaBranch Power House tracks....	5,316 feet.
Total.....	<u>156,678.5 feet.</u>
	Equals 29.7 miles.

Area of Wards.

First Ward.....	682 acres.
Second Ward	630 acres.
Third Ward.....	1,636 acres.
Fourth Ward.....	857 acres.
Fifth Ward.....	1,522 acres.
Sixth Ward.....	433 acres.
Total.....	5,760 acres.

Cost of Paving.

TOTAL COST OF THE DIFFERENT PAVED STREETS.

Commerce, Fannin to Milam.....	Brick.....	\$12,105.69
Congress, Chartres to Milam.....	Asphalt.....	58,907.08
Leeland, Crawford to Louisiana.....	Asphalt.....	25,457.97
Franklin, San Jacinto to Bridge....	Asphalt.....	24,138.38
Prairie, Fannin to Travis.....	Asphalt.....	8,060.70
Preston, Caroline to Washington.....	Not completed.	
Travis, Texas to Commerce.....	Asphalt.....	25,706.75
Gabel, Maple to G. H. & H. R. R....	Brick.....	3,596.85

PERCENTAGE OF ENGINEERING EXPENSES OF STREET PAVING AS COMPARED WITH THE TOTAL COST OF SAME.

Congress Avenue.....	1.3 per cent.
Commerce Avenue.....	0.8 per cent.
Leeland Avenue.....	1.4 per cent.
Franklin Avenue.....	2.7 per cent.
Prairie Avenue.....	1.2 per cent.
Travis Street.....	1.5 per cent.
Gabel Street.....	4.5 per cent.

Sewers Examined.

MONTH	BASINS EXAMINED	MANHOLES EXAMINED	TANKS EXAMINED	INLETS EXAMINED
May	849	46	74	71
June.....	1,108	236	39	27
July	1,657	241	27	76
August	75	244	.....	57
September	935	222	24	86
October.....	452	141	42	27
November.....	925	45	26	36
December.	684	143	38	34
Total	6,685	1,318	270	414

Grand total, 8,687.

Total cost of examinations.....	\$ 1,072.03
Average cost of examination per structure (maintenance)...	0.123

Building Permits.

AMOUNT OF IMPROVEMENTS AS SHOWN BY THE RECORD OF BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1902.

January	\$ 59,550.00
February	70,500.00
March	73,265.00
April	140,320.00
May	58,800.00
June	79,300.00
July	47,635.00
August.....	77,865.00
September	61,175.00
October	139,900.00
November.....	86,780.00
December	63,768.00

Total for year.....\$958,858.00

Amount expended in city for repairs to buildings as shown

by permit record.....\$67,655.50

Average per month 5,622.12

**Street Railway Pro Rata of Street Paving
for 1902.**

March 31.....	Odin Avenue, Carr to Schwartz.....	\$ 2,324.30
July 28.....	Washington Street.....	24,409.59
July 28.....	San Jacinto, Willow, McKee, Liberty, Odin	12,767.57
July 28.....	Caroline Street.....	3,093.90
July 28.....	Buffalo Street intersection.....	25.27
July 28.....	McGowan and Main Street intersection.....	40.93
July 28.....	Crawford Street intersections.....	105.50
July 28.....	Main Street.....	14,410.26
July 28.....	McGowan Avenue.....	2,566.35
July 28.....	Houston Avenue.....	2,270.33
July 28.....	Mongomery Avenue, first section.....	4,007.41
July 28.....	Montgomery Avenue, second section.....	1,758.57
July 28.....	Congress Avenue.....	4,019.14
July 28.....	Engelke Street.....	640.05
October 20.....	Leeland and Travis intersection.....	85.04
October 20.....	Leeland and Fannin intersection.....	103.96
October 20.....	Leeland and Caroline intersection.....	104.29
October 20.....	Preston Avenue Caroline to Main.....	2,555.56
October 20.....	Leeland and LaBranch intersection.....	105.74
October 20.....	Prairie Avenue, Fannin to Travis.....	2,303.72

Amount carried forward.....\$ 77,697.48

Amount brought forward	\$ 77,697.48
October 20.....Travis Street, Franklin to Texas.....	8,616.01
October 29.....Congress Avenue, Caroline to Milam.....	5,807.13
October 29.....Congress Avenue, Chartres to Caroline.....	6,318.12
December 9....Franklin Avenue, San Jacinto to bridge....	8,905.30
December 9....Preston and Milam intersection.....	159.47

MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES AGAINST THE HOUSTON
ELECTRIC COMPANY.

October 29.....One-half cost of timbering San Jacinto bridge	237.50
October 29.....Renewing floor of San Jacinto bridge.....	71.42
Total.....	\$107,812.43
Amount paid up to date.	46,476.43
Balance due.....	\$ 61,336.00

Uncompleted Paving Contracts.

STATEMENT SHOWING AMOUNTS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE EXISTING
CONTRACTS AND TO PROVIDE FOR CONTEMPLATED
IMPROVEMENTS.

Hardy St. Paving, estimated cost.....	\$22,000.00
5th St. Paving, estimated cost.....	\$4,200.00
Less share of Houston Electric Co.....	585.00
Preston Ave., north of bayou, paid \$7,717.36; to complete ...	5,662.45
Preston Ave., south of bayou, paid \$12,607.04; to complete...	5,628.95
Preston Ave. Catch Basins, etc., balance, both sides of bridge, approximate estimate.....	500.00
Piling, Drainage, etc., 3rd and Milam Sts. at Henke's Ice House	650.00
Extension of Hogan St. Sewer, approximate estimate.....	3,000.00
Repaving 3rd St. with Brick.....	900.00
Belgian Block Pavement, Milam St. Bridge to Tunnel.....	800.00
Houston Ave. Improvement, approximate estimate.....	3,600.00
San Jacinto St., Congress to Franklin.....	3,976.46
German and Chartres Sts.....	8,000.00
Total.....	\$58,332.86

Distribution of Pipe Sewers and Drains.

LOCATION	6-Inch House)	8-Inch	10-Inch	12-Inch	15-Inch	18-Inch	21-Inch	24-Inch
<i>Caroline District.</i>								
Caroline St., combined.....								315
Franklin St., combined.....		6,368	1,972			225		3,030
Preston, Main Sts., combined	1,236			951		337		
Intercepting Pipe, Caroline, Commerce, Franklin.....				339				
Extension Jackson St. Sewer		346						
<i>La Branch District.</i>								
La Branch St., sanitary....		48,115	4,577	2,294	4,565		3,289	1,650
Capitol St. Ext., sanitary..		5,042	653	989				
Hadley Ave. Ext., sanitary..		7,777						
Webster Ave. Ext., sanitary		360						
Gray Ave. Ext., sanitary....		625						
Pierce Ave. Ext., sanitary..		1,317						
St. Emanuel, Leeland Sts., sanitary.....		680						
Tuam Ave., Fannin School, sanitary.....		1,037						
<i>Buffalo District.</i>								
Buffalo St., combined.....						1,320		4,167
Texas Ave., sanitary.....		648						
<i>San Felipe District.</i>								
Louisiana, San Felipe Sts., combined.....		12,840	306	1,178	765	4,072		
Smith St. Ext., combined...						724		
Kiam's, Preston, sanitary..			858					
Congress, Milam, Chartres.	3,146	3,662½						
San Jacinto, Congress, Pres- ton.....	107	150						
Capitol, Main, Louisiana..	121	612						
Franklin, San Jacinto, Milam		874						
Preston, Louisiana, Smith..		426						
Prairie, Fannin, Louisiana.		1,301						
Fannin, Preston, Prairie....		329						
Fannin, Commerce, Franklin		310						
Travis, Commerce, Texas ..		1,393						
<i>Washington District.</i>								
Washington, Preston Sts., combined.....				1,186		1,420		2,138
Houston Ave., Edwards St., combined.....		515		1,528	525	967		
Sabine St. Ext., combined..				1,848				
South Houston Ave. Ext., sanitary.....				650				
Lubbock St. Ext., sanitary..		300						
10th, Washington, sanitary.		650						

Table Showing Location of Storm Drains, of Construction not Given in Other Tables.

LOCATION	Brick	42-Inch Box	24-Inch Brick	30-Inch Pipe	3x5 Box	20-Inch Con- crete	4x4 Box	15-Inch Pipe	Man Holes	Catch Basins
Calhoun St. Invert.....	10,220									
<i>Sewers Constructed and Maintained by Railroad Companies.</i>										
I. & G. N. R. R.		1,800								
Carr St., Opelousas to Nance.....										
H. E. & W. T. R'y.										
Sterrett St., Williams to Nance.....			965							1
So. Pac. Co.										
Winter St., Houston to Holly.....										
Burnet St.....				2,255						
Montgomery Ave., New Orleans Ave. to Bayou.					1,180					2
M. K. & T. R'y.						1,046				6
Spring St., Johnson to Beach.....							2,165			
H. & T. C. R. R.										
Hemphill St., Shops to Washington.....								750		
7th St., Central Depot to Bayou (used for sani- tary from depot).....								450		4
H. E. & W. T. R'y.	30-Inch Brick 2,832		24-Inch Pipe 1,080		21-Inch Pipe 738	20-Inch Pipe 658			11	27
Maffitt St., Bayou to Sumpter.....			389						4	11
Magnolia St. Extension.										

Table Showing Distribution of Brick Sewers and Drains.

LOCATION	33-Inch	36-Inch	39-Inch	42-Inch	45-Inch	60-Inch
<i>Caroline District.</i>						
Caroline St.....						830
Preston Ave., Main St.....		672				
<i>San Felipe District.</i>						
Louisiana St., San Felipe St.....	335	633	326	648	4,036	

Table Showing Brick Storm Sewers.

LOCATION	24-Inch	27-Inch	30-Inch	33-Inch	36-Inch	39-Inch	42-Inch	45-Inch	48-Inch	51-Inch	54-Inch	61-Inch
Chartres St	291	354	1,005	653	994	637	330	660	330	330	686	.....
Franklin Ave. Bridge.....	140	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Heiner St.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,930	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hardy St.....	.....	.....	769	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	666	.....	560	2,160
5th St. and Washington to Bayou.....	250	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Elysian St.....	446	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hogan St.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	415	.....	.....	.....

Table Showing Pipe Storm Sewers.

LOCATION	8-Inch	12-Inch	15-Inch	18-Inch	24-Inch
Magnolia St., Crawford St	302
Franklin Ave. Bridge.....	78
Stanley St.....	656	.....
Spruce St.....	442	.....
3rd St. Tunnel	250	.....	.....	.....
Elysian St.....
Semmes St.....	1,950	175	1,750
Mary St.....	1,370	.....
Opelousas St., Elysian St., Hardy St.....	261	.....	.....	.....	1,425
Odin Ave., Liberty Ave., Chapman St.....	192	.....

**Recapitulation of Sanitary and Storm Sewers in
Operation December 31, 1902.**

SIZE	SANITARY		COMBINED		STORM DRAINS		TOTALS	
	Lineal Feet	Miles	Lineal Feet	Miles	Lineal Feet	Miles	Lineal Feet	Miles
6-inch Pipe....	8,204	1.554	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,204	1.554
8-inch Pipe....	95,984	18.178	.....	.....	.....	.....	95,984	18.178
10-inch Pipe....	10,874	2.059	.....	.....	.....	.....	10,874	2.059
12-inch Pipe....	5,111	.968	5,763	1.091	.....	.....	10,874	2.059
15-inch Pipe...	4,565	.866	1,740	.330	2,700	.511	9,005	1.707
18-inch Pipe....	.....	.....	8,783	1.663	3,117	.590	11,900	2.253
21-inch Pipe....	3,289	.623	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,289	.623
24-inch Pipe....	1,650	.310	9,650	1.828	3,555	.673	14,855	2.811
30-inch Pipe....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,255	.426	2,255	.426
24-inch Brick...	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,092	.400	2,092	.400
27-inch Brick...	.....	.....	.....	.....	354	.067	354	.067
30-inch Brick...	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,005	.190	1,005	.190
33-inch Brick...	.....	.....	335	.063	653	.123	988	.186
36-inch Brick...	.....	.....	1,305	.247	3,924	.743	5,229	.990
39-inch Brick...	.....	.....	326	.061	637	.120	963	.181
42-inch Brick...	.....	.....	648	.123	330	.062	978	.185
45-inch Brick...	.....	.....	4,038	.765	660	.125	4,698	.890
48-inch Brick...	.....	.....	.....	.....	745	.141	745	.141
51-inch Brick...	.....	.....	.....	.....	330	.062	330	.062
54-inch Brick...	.....	.....	.....	.....	686	.130	686	.130
60-inch Brick...	.....	.....	830	.157	.....	.....	830	.157
18-inch Concrete	.....	.....	700	.133	.....	.....	700	.133
20-inch Concrete	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,046	.200	1,046	.200
Box Drains ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,145	.974	5,145	.974
Totals.....	129,677	24.558	34,118	6.461	29,234	5.537	193,029	36.558
Hardy St., miscellaneous sizes.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,155	.787
Total.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	197,184	37.345

**Summary of Intercepting Sewers Constructed in 1901
and 1902 under T. J. Shea Contract.**

KIND	FEET	MILES
18-inch Vitrified Pipe.....	2,242.9	0.425
20-inch Vitrified Pipe.....	433.0	0.081
24-inch Vitrified Pipe.....	2,010.1	0.380
30-inch Brick.....	2,271.0	0.430
42-inch Brick.....	1,108.3	0.210
Total.....	8,065.3	1.526
34 Manholes.	.....	.....
24-inch Cast Iron Force Main .....	.....	4.760
Total Miles.....	.....	6.286

Table Showing Accessories to the Sewer System.

LOCATION	Man Holes	Catch Basins	Flush Tanks
<i>Caroline District.</i>			
Caroline St.....	4	16	.....
Franklin St.....	43	20	1
Preston Ave., Main St.....	8	5	.....
Caroline Intercepting Pipe, Commerce to Franklin	1	.....	.....
Extension Jackson St. Sewer.....	1	.....	.....
<i>La Branch District.</i>			
La Branch St.....	207	10	25
Capitol Ave. Extension	21	.....	7
Hadley Ave Extension	22	.....	4
Gray Ave. Extension	2	.....	.....
Pierce Ave. Extension	4	.....	.....
St. Emanuel St., Leeland Ave	2	.....	.....
Tuam Ave., Fannin School.....	3	.....	.....
<i>Buffalo District.</i>			
Buffalo St.....	13	15	1
Texas Ave.....	2	.....	.....
<i>San Felipe District.</i>			
Louisiana St., San Felipe St	78	62	2
Smith St. Extension	3	.....	.....
Kiam's, Preston Ave.....	2	.....	.....
Congress Ave., Milam St. to Chartres St.....	13	.....	.....
San Jacinto St., Congress Ave. to Preston Ave..	1	.....	.....
Capitol Ave., Main St. to Louisiana St.....	3	.....	.....
Franklin Ave., San Jacinto St. to Milam.....	6	1	.....
Preston Ave., Louisiana St. to Smith St	1	.....	.....
Prairie Ave., Fannin St. to Louisiana St.....	6	.....	.....
Fannin St., Preston Ave. to Prairie Ave	1	1	.....
Fannin St., Commerce Ave. to Franklin Ave .....	.....	.....	.....
Travis St., Commerce Ave. to Texas Ave.....	5	2	.....
<i>Washington District.</i>			
Washington Ave., Preston Ave.....	12	16	1
Houston Ave., Edwards St.....	9	7	.....
Sabine St. Extension	5	3	.....
Lubbock St.....	1	.....	.....
10th St., Washington Ave	2	.....	.....
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>			
Chartres St. Conduit.....	1	36	.....
Magnolia St., Crawford St	2	.....	.....
Franklin Ave. Bridge.....	1	.....	.....
Congress Ave., Travis St. to Louisiana St	1	.....	.....
Heiner St.....	5	16	.....
Stanley St. and Gully to Young's Ave.....	2	3	.....
Spruce St.....	3	4	.....
3rd St. Tunnel.....	.....	4	.....
5th St., Washington Ave. to Bayou .....	.....	2	.....
Elysian St.....	7	13	.....
Semmes St.....	5	7	.....
Mary St	5	13	.....
Hogan St.....	1	3	.....
Hardy St.....	11	16	.....

Flush Tanks.

LOCATION	Number	DISTRICT	DESIGN
Main and Prairie.....	1	La Branch ..	Rosewater
Main and Walker.....	1	La Branch ..	Van Vranken
Fannin and Prairie.....	1	La Branch ..	Van Vranken
Fannin and Walker.....	2	La Branch ..	Van Vranken
McKinney and San Jacinto.....	2	La Branch ..	Van Vranken
McKinney and Caroline.....	2	La Branch ..	Van Vranken
McKinney and Austin.....	2	La Branch ..	Van Vranken
McKinney and Crawford.....	2	La Branch ..	Van Vranken
McKinney and Jackson.....	2	La Branch ..	Van Vranken
McKinney and Chenevert.....	2	La Branch ..	Van Vranken
Tuam and Fannin.....	1	La Branch ..	Van Vranken
Tuam and San Jacinto.....	1	La Branch ..	Rosewater
Tuam and Caroline.....	1	La Branch ..	Rosewater
Tuam and Austin.....	1	La Branch ..	Rosewater
Brazos and Gray.....	1	La Branch ..	Rosewater
Pierce and Main.....	2	La Branch ..	Rosewater
Pierce and Fannin.....	2	La Branch ..	Van Vranken
Pierce and San Jacinto.....	2	La Branch ..	Van Vranken
Pierce and Caroline.....	1	La Branch ..	Van Vranken
Pierce and Austin.....	1	La Branch ..	Van Vranken
Travis and McGowan.....	1	La Branch ..	Van Vranken
Travis and Calhoun.....	1	La Branch ..	Rosewater
Milam and Calhoun.....	1	La Branch ..	Van Vranken
Louisiana and Calhoun.....	1	La Branch ..	Van Vranken
Travis and McKinney.....	1	San Felipe ..	Van Vranken
Milam and Lamar.....	1	San Felipe ..	Van Vranken
Commerce and Schrimp.....	1	Franklin	Van Vranken
McKinney and St. Charles.....	1	Buffalo.....	Pacific
Washington and Hemphill.....	1	Washington..	Van Vranken
McKinney and Hamilton.....	2	La Branch ..	Van Vranken
Pierce and Baldwin.....	1	La Branch ..	Pacific

Private Sewers.

OWNER	LOCATION	Diameter	Lineal Feet
Pythian Hall.....	McKee and Liberty to Sterrett ...	8-in. Pipe ..	760
Smith & Stuart..	Congress to Main	10-in. Pipe ..	330
Rice Hotel.....	Travis to Prairie to Bayou.....	24-in. Brick	1,300
Court House.....	San Jacinto to Bayou.....	12-in. Pipe ..	1,100
Carson & Sewell.	Through Block to Bayou.....	8-in. Pipe ..	400
Converse Estate..	Commerce to Main to Bayou.....	8-in. Pipe ..	600
Nelms.....	Commerce, connects with Converse Sewer	8-in. Pipe ..	225
Binz Building ...	Texas to Travis.....	8-in. Pipe ..	400
Hutchins House..	Travis to Commerce to Bayou....	8-in. Pipe ..	480
Pillot & Kennedy	Travis to Franklin to Bayou.....	10-in. Pipe ..	450
Morris System...	Congress to Travis, Travisto Pres- ton, Preston to rear Mitchell's Store.....	8-in. Pipe ..	580
Morris System...	Congress and Caroline to Jackson	8-in. Pipe ..	1,320
Morris System...	Fannin and Congress to Bayou ..	12-in. Pipe ..	930
Morris System...	Congress to Preston.....	10-in. Pipe ..	330
Morris System...	Preston to Texas	8-in. Pipe ..	660
Morris System...	Texas to Rusk....	6-in. Pipe ..	660
Tuggle Sewer....	Hadley, La Branch to Jackson...	8-in. Pipe ..	655
Total.....	.....	.....	11,180

Or 2.117 Miles.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

T. H. STONE,

ATTORNEY OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON,

For the Year Ending
December 31, 1902.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, January 10, 1903.

HON. O. T. HOLT,
Mayor.

DEAR SIR—Complying with your request to furnish you with report showing work done, and expenses incurred by this department during the year 1902, I beg to submit herewith subjoined report:

Work of Department.

Upon assuming charge of this department on April 14, 1902, I found sixty-eight (68) civil suits pending to which the city was a party. Since that time sixteen (16) civil suits have been filed to which the city is a party, making a total of eighty-four (84) civil suits, in some of which the city is plaintiff.

The above estimate does not include tax suits filed by the city.

The amount involved in cases in which the city is defendant aggregates five hundred and thirty-five thousand (\$535,000) dollars. As against this amount the city has a suit pending against the Water Company for one hundred and sixteen thousand (\$116,000) dollars, and against insurance companies for amounts aggregating twenty-four thousand (\$24,000) dollars, making a total of one hundred and forty thousand (\$140,000) dollars.

CASES DISPOSED OF.

Of the total number of cases pending April 14, 1902, and of those since filed, thirteen in which the city was defendant, have

been tried in the courts, involving approximately seventy-five thousand (\$75,000) dollars, with the following results:

Judgments against city	3
Total amount three judgments.....	\$2,100
Judgments for city	7
Mistrials	3
Cases now on appeal	6
Cases briefed	8
Agreed judgments for and cases dismissed against city without expense to it	11
Total number of cases disposed of.....	21

EXPENSES.

The budget allowed for this department for the year 1902, January 1 to December 31, was seven thousand, five hundred (\$7,500) dollars.

The total expenses of this department for the year 1902, January 1 to December 31, was \$4,426.25; budget allowance not used, \$3,073.75.

Of this amount of \$4,426.25, consumed by this department in 1902, twenty-four hundred and twenty-six and eleven one-hundredths (\$2,426.11) dollars was for expenes of said department under my predecessor from January 1 to April 14, 1902, and for expenses previously incurred by him.

Total expense	\$4,426.25
Expense previous administration to April 14, 1902	2,426.11
Expense present attorney April 14, 1902, to Decem- ber 31, 1902.....	2,000.14

COMPARISONS.

Under my predecessor's administration, budget allowed for year 1902.....	\$ 7,500.00
Expenses for year 1901, as shown by Auditor's report	11,300.00
Amount expended in excess of budget allowed.....	3 800.00
Budget allowed 1902	7,500.00
Expenses.....	4,426.25
Amount budget allowed not used.....	3,073.75
Excess of budget 1901.....	3,800.00
Amount saved by this department in 1902 as against 1901	6,873.75

Summarizing the above statement, it appears that the expense of this department under my predecessor for the year 1901 was \$11,300, as against \$4,426.25 for year 1902, showing a saving to the city under present administration of \$6,873.75, which is an amount saved that is about fifty (50) per cent in excess of my expenses.

OPINIONS AND PETITIONS.

From April 14, 1902, to December 31, 1902, this department passed on petitions and rendered opinions to the number of 225.

FEES.

From April 14, 1902, to December 31, 1902, attorney's fees in Corporation Court in convicted cases amounted to \$7,200; fees of 5 per cent on tax collections aggregating \$31,781.18, amounts to \$1,589.90; total fees of office, \$8,789.90.

In explanation of the above, I desire to say that no fees are received by me as City Attorney. The fees above mentioned are provided for in the Charter and General Laws, and at one time were perquisites of the office, and as such went to the City Attorney. Now, however, while the fees are still charged, they go to the city, the attorney being on a salary, but the amount of the fees should be credited to this department as earnings.

Allowing credit for the fees above set out, the account of this department is as follows:

By fees, Corporation Court.....	\$7,200.00
By fees, tax collections.....	1,589.90
Total credits	\$8,789.90
To total expense	4,426.25
Balance to credit of this department.....	\$4,363.65

To explain: This department has not only fallen within the budget allowance \$3,073.75, but to which add its earnings, \$8,789.90, and we have a credit, after deducting expenses, of

\$11,863.65; or deducting the department's expenses for 1902 of \$4,426.25 from the department's earnings of \$8,789.90, and we have a department credit of \$4,363.65; which shows this department to have earned \$4,363.65 over and above all of its expenses.

The foregoing statement is not made for the purpose of showing what this department has done, but merely to indicate and emphasize it in a general way. It contains no references to contracts prepared, ordinances drawn, titles examined, etc., and no effort has been made herein to cover the entire work of the department, which is manifold in its nature.

Respectfully.

T. H. STONE,
City Attorney.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

J. P. ARTO,

CHIEF OF FIRE DEPARTMENT.

For the Year Ending
December 31, 1902.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, January 10, 1903.

HON. O. T. HOLT,

Mayor.

DEAR SIR—I herewith submit this, my annual report for the year 1902. You will find that the expenses of this department have been separated from January 1, 1902, up to and including April 15th. Upon that date I took charge of the fire department and am responsible for the expenses from that date until the present time. This report contains the actual time of fire service, number of miles traveled, number of feet of hose laid, number of feet of ladders used, number of gallons of chemical fluid used in extinguishing fires. An account of losses by fires of buildings, contents, the insurance carried and paid, amount of property involved, damage to insured and uninsured buildings and their contents; and the total damage to both buildings and contents for the year. In this connection I will call your attention to the fact that our fire losses for the past year have been far less than any for the past five years. The losses by fire where no insurance was carried are conservatively estimated and are as near correct as could be ascertained. This also contains the number of men in service, number of alarms, salary list and expenses. In this I have also included other information that I think might be of interest to you.

The time the whole department was in actual fire service during the past year was 671 hours; we have traveled in answering fire alarms 864 1-3 miles; have raised 3,602 feet of ladders and laid 70,300 feet of hose; have used 4,380 gallons of chemical fluid in extinguishing fires, and controlled a number of fires with our

chemical engine. During the year the department responded to 300 alarms, 21 more than the year previous; 86 were sent in from the alarm boxes and 214 were received by telephone. In connection with this I will say that we are under many obligations to both telephone companies for their promptness in the transmittal of alarms. They have been of aid and assistance to us a number of times. The telephone operators of both companies have at all times been very prompt and attentive, for which we tender both them and their companies our sincere thanks.

Notable Fires of the Year.

February 4, 12:10 a. m., box 46. The location of fire was at Nos. 1203-5-7-9 Milam Street; owners were the Burnett estate and A. Bergamini, was occupied as residence and boarding house; the total loss was little more than \$1,000. This was second alarm.

The next fire of any consequence was a general alarm on May 27, at 12:50 a. m., box 341. The fire originated in a three story frame boarding house located at 505 San Jacinto Street; owned by the Burnett estate, and occupied by Mrs. McKernon. The total loss to the building and contents was \$3,600.

On December 2, 10:05 p. m., an alarm was sounded from box 44. The fire was located at Si. Packard's Laundry, 912 Prairie Avenue. This fire had great headway upon the arrival of the department and was only controlled by prompt and decisive action of the men. The loss at this fire to both building and contents was \$7,047.00.

Casualties.

It is impossible to get through a year without some accidents, particularly where a department has been called into service as much as this one. On June 12, at 9:40 p. m., an alarm of fire was sounded from box 23. In responding to this alarm fireman Cliff Johnston was driving the Chief's buggy at a high rate of

speed upon Crawford Street; when near Bell Avenue (which at this point is very dark at night) his buggy collided with another vehicle going in the same direction. The collision was with such force that it threw Johnston out of his buggy; he struck the paved street upon his head, causing a fracture of the skull, from which he died the next day. Of course, we have had a number of minor accidents, but none of them were serious enough to be mentioned here.

Expenses for the Year.

Our budget allowance for the year was \$55,000.00; that means an average monthly allowance of \$4,583.33. It will be seen by reference to the City Auditor's ledger that we are charged with the expenditure of \$64,753.71. Now this is correct with one exception, and that is, that in 1902 expenses we are charged with the pay rolls of thirteen months instead of twelve, as the December pay roll of 1901, amounting to \$3,932.95, is included in this year's expenses, when it properly belongs to the year prior. If this amount were deducted from the amount we are charged with spending, it will be seen that our actual expense for 1902 was \$60,820.76. The amount of money spent on this department for the first four months was \$23,584.68, or an average monthly expense of \$5,896.17. So much money being spent in the early part of the year is the main reason we have had to exceed our annual allowance of \$55,000.00. This first four month's expense of \$23,584.68 deducted from \$60,820.76, the amount actually spent in 1902, would leave me \$37,236.76 for maintaining the department eight months, or an average monthly expense of \$4,654.51. I have managed the department for the past eight months on that amount, and besides that have included the unusual heavy expense of over \$2,000 worth of fire hose bought in August, 1902. Of the \$5,820.76 spent above our budget allowance, \$5,251.36 of it was spent in the first four months of the year 1902.

Fire Committee.

Hon. O. T. Holt, Mayor; Robt. L. Jones, Chairman; James Thompson, J. Z. Gaston.

Officers of the Department.

J. P. Arto, Chief Engineer; Herman Dissen, Assistant Chief Engineer; Claude Rielly, Secretary.

Central Station—R. F. Ollre, Captain; Geo. Rafferty, Lieutenant.

Station No. 1—R. L. Rast, Captain; E. L. Benson, Lieutenant.

Station No. 5—Ed. Franks, Captain; Harry Rohn, Lieutenant.

Station No. 6—Thos. H. Martin, Captain; Jno. Minster, Lieutenant.

Station No. 7—G. W. Scarborough, Captain; Chas. Kinsbach, Lieutenant.

Station No. 8—Robt. Smith, Captain; Warren Anderson, Lieutenant.

Station No. 9—J. W. Miller, Captain; Henry Donnelly, Lieutenant.

Station No. 10—Allie Anderson, Captain; Cliff Brown, Lieutenant.

Values, Insurance and Damage to Property, 1902.

Value of buildings where fires have occurred.....	\$ 1,003,725.00
Value of contents where fires have occurred.....	646,180.00

Total valuation of property involved.....	\$ 1,649,905.00
Insurance on buildings where fires have occurred.....	\$ 390,311.00
Insurance on contents.....	222,400.00

Total amount of insurance carried.....	\$ 612,711.00
Damage to buildings by fire.....	\$ 37,187.85
Damage to contents by fire.....	25,044.60

Total damage to buildings and contents.....	\$ 62,232.45
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Number of men in department.....	59
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Character of buildings involved in fires:

Frame	234
Brick.	35
Corrugated iron.....	3

Total number of alarms answered.....	300
Total miles traveled.....	864½
Total number of feet of hose used.....	70,300
Total number of feet of ladders used.....	3,602
Small chemicals used.....	231
Number of gallons of chemical fluid used.....	4,380
Total number of hours at work.....	671

We have had one general alarm.

We have had one second alarm.

We have had no conflagrations.

Causes of Fires,

Defective flues.....	54	Heater too near floor.....	1
Lamp explosions.....	15	Heat from gas stove.....	1
Sparks from locomotives.....	13	Leak in gas pipe.....	1
Boiling tar.....	1	Oil can explosion.....	1
Flue fires.....	44	Lace curtains.....	4
Children playing with matches	5	Rats with matches.....	2
Gasoline and oil stoves.....	16	Defective stove pipe.....	3
Gasoline engine in automobile	1	False flue.....	5
Sparks from flues.....	27	Lightning.....	1
Sparks from boiler.....	1	Boiler too near woodwork....	1
Incendiary.....	7	Defective fire place... ..	1
Waste oil in gully.....	2	Coal box in yard.....	1
Spontaneous combustion.....	2	Out of city limits	2
Cigar stumps.....	1	Gas jet too near curtain.....	1
False alarms.....	11	Overtured glue pot.... ..	1
Grass fires.....	3	Rags placed in flue.....	1
Coal oil	1	Out of water limits.....	1
Lighted candle.....	1	Smoke from oil burner.....	1
Gas works.....	1	Smoking out mosquitos.....	1
Electric wires.....	5	Oil tank collapsed... ..	1
Stove too near wall.....	1	Defective drying room.....	1
Blown down by storm.....	1	Defective gas jet.....	1
Roof fire.....	1	Heat from boiler.....	1
Unknown.....	50		

Statement of Location and Estimated Value of all Property Now in Use by the Fire Department.

CENTRAL FIRE STATION.

Two Story Brick, Corner San Jacinto Street and Prairie Avenue.

Estimated value of building and lot.....	\$ 20,000.00
“ “ Aerial ladder.....	3,000.00

Estimated value of Village hook and ladder.....	\$2,000.00
“ “ Holloway chemical engine.....	1,750.00
“ “ Second size LaFrance steamer.....	4,000.00
“ “ Fourth size LaFrance steamer (not in use)	4,250.00
“ “ Two Chief's buggies.....	400.00
“ “ Four sets of double harness, complete...	400.00
“ “ Two sets of single harness.....	50.00
“ “ Six head of horses	900.00
“ “ Beds and bedding.....	250.00
“ “ Sundry supplies.....	1,200.00
“ “ One LaFrance heater in service.....	225.00
“ “ Two heaters not in service.....	450.00
“ “ Office fixtures.....	100.00
“ “ Two wagons used for hauling of sand, shavings, etc.....	100.00
	<hr/>
	\$39,975.00

HOSE COMPANY NO. 1.

Two Story Brick, No. 612 Fannin Street.

Estimated value of house and lot.....	\$ 12,000.00
“ “ Hose wagon, combination chemical.....	1,200.00
“ “ Two thousand feet of hose at 90c per ft..	1,800.00
“ “ One complete set of double harness.....	100.00
“ “ Two head of horses.....	300.00
“ “ Beds and Bedding.....	100.00
“ “ Sundry Supplies.....	250.00
	<hr/>
	\$15,750.00

HOSE COMPANY NO. 5.

Two Story Brick, No. 910 Hardy Street.

Estimated value of house and lot.....	\$ 6,000.00
“ “ LaFrance steamer No. 5.....	4,000.00
“ “ American heater for steamer.....	225.00
“ “ Hose wagon	500.00
“ “ Two thousand feet of hose at 80c per ft..	1,600.00
“ “ Two complete sets of double harness....	200.00
“ “ Four head of horses.....	600.00
“ “ Beds and bedding.....	150.00
“ “ Sundry supplies.....	150.00
	<hr/>
	\$13,425.00

HOSE COMPANY NO. 6.

Two Story Frame, No. 1106 Washington Avenue.

Estimated value of house and lot.....	\$ 2,350.00
“ “ Combination chemical and hose wagon..	1,200.00
“ “ Nineteen hundred feet of hose at 80c per ft	1,520.00

Estimated value of one complete set of double harness	\$100.00
“ “ Two head of horses.....	300.00
“ “ Beds and bedding.....	150.00
“ “ Sundry supplies.....	100.00
	<hr/>
	\$5,720.00

FIRE STATION NO. 7.

Two Story Brick, Located at Milam and McIlhenny.

Estimated value of house and lot.....	\$ 5,500.00
“ “ Hose wagon.....	500.00
“ “ Eighteen hundred and fifty of hose.....	1,480.00
“ “ One fourth size LaFrance steamer.....	4,250.00
“ “ One American heater connected to steamer	225.00
“ “ Four horses.....	600.00
“ “ Beds and bedding.....	150.00
“ “ Sundry supplies.....	100.00
	<hr/>
	\$12,805.00

FIRE STATION NO. 8.

Two Story Brick, Located at 1307 Crawford Street.

Estimated value of house and lot.....	\$ 7,000.00
“ “ Hose wagon.....	750.00
“ “ Seventeen hundred feet of hose.....	1,360.00
“ “ Harness.....	200.00
“ “ Horses.....	600.00
“ “ Heater connected with steamer.....	225.00
“ “ Third size American Clapp & Jones engine	3,850.00
“ “ Beds and bedding.....	150.00
“ “ Sundry supplies.....	200.00
	<hr/>
	\$14,335.00

FIRE STATION NO. 9.

Two Story Brick, Located at 816 Keen Street.

Estimated value of house and lot.....	\$ 5,000.00
“ “ Fifth size Rotary steamer (out of service)	3,200.00
“ “ Hose wagon.....	400.00
“ “ Two horses.....	300.00
“ “ Harness.....	100.00
“ “ 600 feet of Maltese cross hose.....	600.00
“ “ 1,000 feet of Baker fabric fire hose.....	800.00
“ “ Beds and bedding.....	100.00
“ “ Sundry supplies.....	100.00
	<hr/>
	\$10,600.00

FIRE STATION NO. 10

Two Story Brick, Located at 205 Chartres Street.

Estimated value of house and lot.....	\$	7,000.00
“ “ Fourth size American steamer.....		4,250.00
“ “ One heater attached to steamer.....		225.00
“ “ Harness.....		200.00
“ “ Six horses		900.00
“ “ One hose wagon.....		500.00
“ “ Two thousand feet of hose.....		1,600.00
“ “ Beds and bedding.....		150.00
“ “ Sundry supplies.....		150.00
		<u>\$15,975.00</u>

TOTAL VALUE OF PROPERTY IN USE BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
AT VARIOUS STATIONS.

Estimated value of property in use at Station No. 1.....	\$	15,750.00
“ “ “ Central Station.....		39,975.00
“ “ “ Station No. 5.....		13,425.00
“ “ “ Station No. 6.....		5,720.00
“ “ “ Station No. 7.....		12,805.00
“ “ “ Station No. 8.....		14,335.00
“ “ “ Station No. 9.....		10,600.00
“ “ “ Station No. 10.....		15,975.00
Total.....		<u>\$128,585.00</u>

This does not include the Gamewell fire alarm system.

Harness.

The harness in the service is all in good condition, with the exception of some two or three sets of collars, which should be replaced as soon as possible. We have now in actual use fifteen sets of double harness and two single sets. We also have one complete set of double harness in reserve.

Hose.

Below will be found a statement giving the number of feet of hose we have in good and bad condition and where located:

	In good co'd'n	In bad cond'n
Fire Station No. 1.....	2,000 feet	150 feet
Fire Station No. 5.....	2,000 feet	.....
Fire Station No. 6.....	1,900 feet	150 feet

	In good cond'n	In bad cond'n
Fire Station No. 7.....	1,850 feet	150 feet
Fire Station No. 8.....	1,700 feet	300 feet
Fire Station No. 9.....	1,600 feet	.....
Fire Station No. 10.....	2,000 feet	.....
Total.....	13,050 feet	750 feet

We also have 500 feet of good 1-inch chemical hose.

Apparatus.

We have in service the following apparatus located at the various stations:

APPARATUS	Number of Apparatus	LOCATED AT
Combination Chemical and Hose Wagon.....	1	Station No. 1
Second size La France Steamer.....	2	Central Station
Double Holloway Chemical Engine.....	4	Central Station
First Class Hose Wagon.....	5	Station No. 5
Combination Chemical and Hose Wagon.....	6	Station No. 6
Fifth Size, Rotary La France Steamer.....	*7	Station No. 9
Third Size, Clapp & Jones Steamer.....	8	Station No. 8
Hose Wagon.....	9	Station No. 9
Hose Wagon.....	10	Station No. 10
Hose Wagon... ..	11	Station No. 8
Hose Wagon.....	12	Station No. 7
Third Size La France Steamer	13	Station No. 5
Preston Hook and Ladder.....	14	Central Station
Hayes Aerial Ladder.....	15	Central Station
Fourth Size La France Steamer.....	†16	Central Station
Fourth Size La France Steamer.....	17	Station No. 7
Fourth Size American Steamer.....	18	Station No. 10
Chief's Buggy.....	.....	Central Station
Assistant Chief's Buggy.....	.....	Central Station
Hose Reel in reserve .....	.....	Station No. 8

*This steamer is not in service.

†Held in service.

It will be seen by above list that we have twenty pieces of apparatus in all, two of which are not in service, because we have no house room to place them in commission.

The apparatus of this department is kept in the very best pos-

sible condition. Each piece is fully equipped with chemical fire extinguishers, ropes, tools, etc. I think the expense of keeping our apparatus repaired for the coming year will be a great deal less than last year, for now the heart of the city is well nigh completely paved.

Number of Water Hydrants.

First Ward	44
Second Ward.....	50
Third Ward	189
Fourth Ward.....	124
Fifth Ward	119
Sixth Ward.....	53
Total.....	579

Remarks.

I wish to extend my thanks to his honor, the Mayor, the members of the Fire Committee and the City Council for the valuable improvements which have been added to the Fire Department, in their efforts to build up and maintain its efficiency. I also wish to extend my thanks to the Water Works Company, the City Secretary, City Engineer, the Chief of Police and members of the police force. I also wish to thank the City Electrician and his assistants for their faithful work during the year. My thanks are especially due the members of this department. Since I have assumed charge of the Fire Department I have been proud of the general deportment and fidelity to duty of its members. It has been a source of pleasure and gratification to me that their record for discipline, good behavior, promptness, neatness of apparel, buildings and apparatus has been excellent. Their work either at fires or in the house will compare most favorably with the fire departments of any of the larger cities. The administration of my duties under such circumstances has been a matter of pleasure and pride to me.

Street Obstructions.

I would urge that the Council should adopt some remedy for the different obstructions that impede our progress attending fires. I have reference especially to horses and vehicles of various kinds that usually stand in front of blacksmith shops. Also to all local contractors and property owners who have been in the custom of having a lot of bricks, lumber and other building material placed in the street near where they intend erecting a building. There would be no objection to this, if the building would be erected immediately, but they allow all of this material to stand in the streets for weeks and sometimes months before it is removed.

Recommendations.

I would call your attention to the necessary improvements, which should be made in the department during the ensuing year. I would suggest that a fire station be built in the Third Ward and properly equipped with horses, hose wagon and a crew of five men. We have one old hose reel in reserve that could be converted into a first class hose wagon at a very small cost, to be used at this station. I would recommend that this station be placed in the neighborhood of McGowan Avenue and Crawford Street.

I would further recommend that an addition be built to No. 9 Fire Station, and the present Village truck (now at Central Station) be placed there, with three additional men. This company would then cover the territories of the First, Fifth and Sixth Wards, and a new and more up-to-date Village truck be purchased and placed at Central Station. The present truck makes all fires occurring within the entire city.

I believe that the fifth size Rotary LaFrance fire engine we have in reserve should be sent back to the factory and be converted into a double pump, piston type, which could be done at a not very great cost.

I most earnestly urge the building of a new Central Fire Station at the corner of San Jacinto Street and Texas Avenue. The building we now occupy for that purpose does not belong to the city, is entirely too small for our use and badly in need of repairs.

I would like to have purchased 3,000 feet of 2 1-2 inch rubber-lined cotton hose, also fifty feet of 3-inch hose to be used as a water tower on the aerial ladder, as the present length of hose used for that purpose is in very bad condition. Also that three dozen fire helmets and one cellar pipe be purchased; also one wire cutter and tin roof cutter be bought and placed upon the aerial ladder.

I would call your attention to the serious obstruction the department has to contend with in the net-work of overhead electric, telephone and telegraph wires in the center of the city. I can positively say that there are today places in the very heart of the city where it would be well nigh impossible to raise our aerial ladder to reach the upper windows or roofs of these buildings, even in daylight, much less at night, when it is all the more difficult and hazardous. Should a large fire occur in any of these districts, the existing danger is most serious and the loss of human life may be appalling. Something should be done at once to remedy this evil. If the city has not power to compel the different companies to place their overhead wires underground, legislation should be sought and the danger be removed before it is too late, and the city placed in the unenviable position of locking the door after the horse is lost.

I would also recommend that my Secretary be relieved of fire duty, as the duties of his position have been steadily increasing every year. I think if this were done the affairs of this office could be more properly conducted.

In conclusion, I wish to extend my thanks to City Electrician Clarence George, and his assistants, Messrs. Frank Peters and John Luckie, for their valuable services rendered myself and the

department, in the way of perfect working of the alarm service, and the arranging of the automatic electric lighters in the different engine houses, which turns the lights on at the sounding of the alarm, thereby saving time in leaving the house.

The addition of the ten (10) new fire alarm boxes put in service since last May, has greatly increased our facilities for quickly responding to alarms in those parts of the city heretofore unprotected by fire alarm service.

Respectfully submitted,

J. P. ARTO,

Chief Fire Department.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

GEO. ELLIS,
CHIEF OF POLICE,

For the Year Ending
December 31, 1092.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, January 10, 1903.

HON. O. T. HOLT,

Mayor.

DEAR SIR—In compliance with your request, I beg to submit herewith my annual report for the year ending December 31, 1902, showing the number of arrests, etc., made by the police during the year:

Arrests for the Year 1902.

OFFENSE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Vagrancy	184	44	134	139	68	137	125	122	42	77	142	130
Drunk and down	60	46	65	70	77	73	90	84	115	87	108	.....
Trespassing	1	5	2	.....	5	1	4	5	1	1	4	5
Fighting	40	27	51	30	39	53	57	42	31	41	40	22
Assaults	20	20	19	21	20	17	29	33	38	26	24	44
Thefts	31	24	40	21	19	32	15	16	8	14	21	23
Sleeping in public place	9	.....	2	.....	17	.....	.....	.....	5	4	10	1
Train jumping	5	1	10	7	7	1	10	5	2	10	6	2
Disorderly conduct	12	11	32	17	21	191	.....	.....	30	26	27	9
Disturbing the peace	30	26	35	36	31	.....	77	77	12	24	36	31
Assault to kill	9	8	12	8	12	7	9	20	1	7	5	9
Burglary	35	8	11	15	7	13	45	32	2	12	6	12
Teams not Hitched	2	.....	.....	47	10	5	4	8	5	3	.....	8
Obt'n'g money under false pretense	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Carrying pistol	8	6	8	13	8	3	9	14	6	11	3	19
Fugitive from justice	3	3	4	1	2	2	5	3	12	5	8	.....
Malicious mischief	8	5	6	.....	5	.....	1	.....	2	.....	3	3
Cruelty to animals	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	1	1	3	5	1	.....
Murder	2	2	1	.....	.....	2	3	1	1	.....	.....	4
Crap shooting	9	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
Bike on walk	1	.....	.....	.....	3	2	.....	14	3	1	1	.....
Driving over fire hose	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Resisting an officer	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	1	.....	.....	3	4	7
Lunacy	1	.....	2	.....	4	2	3	.....	1	1	.....	2
Driving on sidewalk	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Vicious dog at large	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fast and reckless driving	2	2	.....	4	10	.....	2	10	5	16	4	8
Rape	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	2	.....	1
Discharging fire arms in city	2	2	2	3	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Disorderly house	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Committing nuisance	2	.....	6	.....	4	2	.....	4	3	.....	1	3
United States prisoner	1	.....	4	1	.....	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Horse theft .....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....
Interfering with officer .....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	3	.....	.....
Bribery .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gaming .....	.....	2	7	5	.....	1	1	7	8	18	3	7
Highway robbery .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cruelty to children ..	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Accompanying lewd women .....	.....	.....	13	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	1	4	.....	2
Forgery .....	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	8	4	1	3	.....	1
Concealing stolen property .....	.....	.....	3	1	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Seduction .....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Embezzlement .....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Maiming .....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Illegal voting .....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Carried forward	492	245	495	441	374	442	502	507	353	397	462	454

Arrests for the Year 1902—Continued.

OFFENSE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Brought forward.....	492	246	495	441	374	442	502	507	353	397	462	454
Unlawfully soliciting baggage.....				1					2		1	
Selling whiskey election day.....				5								
Passing counterfeit money.....				1					1		1	
Obstructing walk.....				1		1	3					
Bike without light.....				5	22	6		4	4			
Street walking.....					23				7			
Suspicion.....					30					19		
Abusive language.....					15				12	14	16	13
Spitting on sidewalk.....					1							
Assault to rob.....					5							
Refusing to pay occupation.....					8	7			1			
Threats.....					1					1		
Escaped convict.....					3	4						6
Disposing of mortgaged property.....					1	1						
Obstructing streets.....					1				2		4	4
Assault to rape.....						5		1	1	1		
Refusing to pay hack.....						1						
Displaying pistol.....						3						1
Selling rotten fish.....						1						
Selling rotten fruit and vegetables.....						1	2					
Hauling without license.....						2						
Violating hack ordinance.....						4	1		1	1		
Peddling without license.....						1		1			3	
Exposing person.....							1	15	1		1	4
Dog running in park.....							1					
S'nd'g obscene literature thro' mail.....							1					
Concealed weapon.....							2	2				
Swimming in bayou.....							2					
Violating oil ordinance.....								1			1	
Refusing to furn. transfer on st. car.....								1				
Disorderly house.....								1	1	3		1
Selling on Sunday.....								2		2		
Operating slot machine.....								1				1
Robbing postoffice.....									2			
Selling cocaine and morphine.....									1	4		
Music in public place.....										2		
Carrying brass knucks.....										1		
Arson.....										1		1
Selling decayed meat.....										1		
Fornication.....										1		
Passing forged instruments.....										1		
Criminal negligence.....											1	
Insufficient weight check line.....											1	1
Malicious prosecution.....											1	
Aiding prisoner to escape.....												1
Totals.....	492	246	495	454	484	479	515	539	391	453	492	487

Total arrests during year, 5,527.

Number of wagon calls during year, 2,813.

Stock impounded during year, 1,794 head.

Respectfully,

GEO. ELLIS,

Chief of Police.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

W. M. BRUMBY, M. D.,

CITY HEALTH OFFICER,

For the Year Ending
December 31, 1902.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, January 10, 1903.

HON. O. T. HOLT,
Mayor.

DEAR SIR—I have the honor to submit the following mortuary report and the work of your Health Department for the year 1902:

Realizing the necessity for your commendable efforts towards retrenchment, I willingly assisted in every possible manner in curtailing the expenses of my department, and point with pride to the fact that mine is one department that has come within its budget for the past eight months.

The budget allowance for this department during the last administration was \$20,000, but the outgoing administration saw fit to cut it to \$12,000 (40 per cent), but I have gone them one better and cut it another 40 per cent (almost), for my expenses were less than \$700 per month the last six months. I hope you will see fit, now that such strict economy is not so essential as when first inducted into office, to be a little more lenient with your Health Department. Dollars spent by municipalities often result in hundreds being saved by individuals, not to speak of the physical pain, the mental anguish and the world of woe and suffering it would possibly prevent.

The salubrity and healthfulness of any locality is indicated by its annual death rate per one thousand of population; and a comparison of these figures year by year furnishes evidence as to its advancement or retrogression in the institution of measures to protect itself against contagion, resultant disease and premature death. A death rate of 15.43 for the past year for our city is certainly flattering, but it can and must be improved upon.

Births.

There were only 474 births reported during the year, which is a very poor showing, for there were certainly more births than deaths. I have experienced considerable difficulty in getting some of our most prominent physicians to report on same. Many are apparently of the impression that it is optional with them whether they report births or not. To look over our records, one would think the midwives were doing all the business in that line, for they have been much more prompt as a rule in reporting their cases. I am of the opinion that if all were reported, the record would show a 50 per cent increase over present returns.

So few parents seem to realize the importance of this record—a legal record of the birth of their children. In my opinion, the parents should be held responsible, like the physician, for the proper recording of a birth, and held amenable to the law sooner than the physician, for they are more directly interested.

Tuberculosis.

As usual, tuberculosis heads the list in causes of death, and at a considerable increase over that of last year.

The discrepancy in the death rate from tuberculosis between the whites and colored is worthy of mention. This excessive death rate among our negroes is, if it were possible to gather statistics, not so much greater than the poorer classes of whites, or rather that class of whites who, like the negroes, are engaged as house servants, sweeping floors and dusting rugs and carpets in the homes of consumptives; or janitors of our large office buildings. Females are more often affected, from the fact of their being occupied with those duties enumerated above, and being more closely confined than the male members of their race.

It is a well established fact that this malady is contracted from infection of bedding, carpets, rooms, etc., mainly through promiscuous expectoration so common with those affected. This same spittle, becoming dessicated in time, is easily whipped up

by the janitor's broom, a lady's skirt, a passing street car, or the least gust of wind, and this germ-laden air is necessarily breathed by passers-by. It has been stated by an authority on bacteriology, that the sputa from a patient in the third stage of this disease was so heavily laden with the germs, that one coughing spell, followed by a single mouthful of spit, often contained enough germs to inoculate every man, woman and child in the universe. Such being the case, we should not hesitate one minute, but prosecute every person who violates that recent ordinance against spitting on the sidewalk or in public places, more especially in a street car, where this drying process is hastened by the grinding under the feet of passengers and the current of air generated by a rapidly moving car; and this same current of air causes us to breathe a polluted atmosphere, which we possibly thought to be pure from the fact of its being a "bracing wind."

Cornet remarks, "The consumptive in himself is almost harmless, and only becomes harmful through bad habits," alluding to the filthy habit of indiscriminate spitting. A registration of and a certain amount of surveillance of all cases of consumption by the health authorities of some of our more progressive cities is certainly commendable, but our wild and woolly West would not tolerate such interference with the rights of free-born American citizenship. It is possible that it will not be necessary for another century to roll around before a sanatoria, a State institution, will be erected for the benefit of the poorer classes of both races, as is already provided by several States, and the benefit to the afflicted will be so much superior to home treatment as to recommend it to all, and ultimately result in a compulsory confinement of all persons in the third stage of the disease. It needs only a thorough agitation of this subject to accomplish what is needed, and I trust before long it will be started in earnest. The advantages to the sick, as well as the protection which is afforded to the well, ought to be so apparent to an enlightened public as to force its demands upon the State.

Why all this stir about the "plague," this panicky feeling when our good people see a yellow flag and a case of smallpox in their neighborhood? Such diseases pale into insignificance when tuberculosis, the most widespread of maladies, the most universal scourge of the human race, is considered. One-seventh of the mortality of the world is due to this one disease, not less than 150,000 persons dying annually in the United States. Imperfectly ventilated dwellings and bad hygienic and sanitary conditions are conducive to this disease. Not only are the powers of resistance of the individual weakened, but the sunlight and pure air are the most powerful agents in destroying the tubercle bacillus.

Disinfection of the rooms of a consumptive would assure, in a measure, protection not only for persons who are free from the dread disease, but also for those who are afflicted and can be re-infected by their own bacilli-bearing sputum. Flushing of the streets with water is expensive, and the water (artesian) is at present very precious, but I think the means would justify the end, for asphalt streets are so extremely dusty as to render the spitting habit a greater menace to the public health than ever before.

I can only hope that the day will yet come when the welfare of the whole community and the advancement of modern sanitary knowledge will be regarded by our citizens as of more import than the alleged property rights of individuals or corporations. Then, and then only, can we ever expect to protect an innocent public from environment—an all-important, predisposing factor.

Smallpox.

This disease has been general throughout the United States for the past three years, and we have had more than our share of this loathsome disease. As I have been connected with the Health Department for about four years, I can give you some-

thing of a history of our troubles in that line. Altogether have had 1,176 cases and 37 deaths, most of the deaths (90 per cent) occurring in the winter of 1900 and 1901.

In the beginning of this epidemic the disease was so mild in character as to deceive some of our best diagnosticians, much less the inexperienced, many of whom to this day refuse to be convinced, and the result was that the disease was in epidemic form before we knew just how it happened. "We knew not what a day nor an hour would bring forth," but we frequently found that a night had brought forth an even dozen cases of smallpox. At one time we had as many as 140 people at the pest-house, including those in detention. At some quarters in the city, usually where negroes predominated, it seemed for a short while as if impossible to stamp it out, but our chief knew no such word as fail, and by hard work both night and day we soon had it under control sufficiently to appease the panicky inclined. We vaccinated any and all that applied, free of charge. The School Board came to our relief by requiring all children to bring certificates of successful vaccination before entering school. Had this not been done, I feel safe in asserting that we would have had an epidemic far worse than that of ten years previous. Glycerinated vaccine virus is more expensive than the points, but the advantages to be derived from its use will, in my opinion, justify the additional expense. The percentage of "takes" in first vaccinations was always higher, and the virus, being free of pus germs, was of course free of deleterious effects—had few sore arms.

Disinfection has been highly satisfactory, there having been very few recurring cases in any given house. The usual precautions were practiced by this department upon discovery of every new case; the patient was immediately removed to the pest-house, and exposed persons, whether previously vaccinated or not, were vaccinated and kept under surveillance for twenty-one days; the house, more especially the room where the patient was

confined, was thoroughly disinfected with formaldehyde gas, if possible to make the room air-tight; otherwise the walls were washed down with 1-500 bi-chloride solution and the floor scrubbed with the same. Occasionally sulphur was used to fumigate the house; but this is objectionable, in that it damages the contents of the room.

With other contagious diseases, the house has been placarded and the inmates furnished with printed and oral instructions as to quarantine, disinfection, etc., and then thrown on their honor to obey.

It has been the custom of your Health Officer to personally investigate every reported case of smallpox. As a rule they had no physician previously, but with other contagious diseases the diagnosis of the attending physician was always taken. The physicians of the city have given us every possible assistance, which is so essential in handling this class of diseases, for the moral suasion of the family physician often has more effect than the demands of the Health Officer, who is usually regarded as an intruder. We have met with repeated reverses in the police courts when legal proceedings were instituted against parties for breaking quarantine, the average juror regarding quarantine as an interference with personal privileges.

Malaria.

This is a disease, which with proper municipal precautions, could be largely if not wholly prevented. Malaria, beyond a reasonable doubt, is caused solely by the bite of a certain mosquito (anopheles), and is a species that breeds principally in low, shady marshes and usually hide out during the day, but at night-fall manage to make up for lost time and are very ravenous, often biting through the clothes rather than fly a few inches away where the cuticle is exposed. Of all mosquitoes, this is possibly the

easiest eradicated, from the fact of their preference for swampy places, which in a city the size of Houston ought not to exist.

Until recently we thought that the three requisities for malaria were heat, shade and moisture, but we are now convinced that these same three factors are necessary for the propagation of the anopheles mosquito. All who know anything of the farm are aware of the sickness, usually of a violent form in the summer and fall, of those working or more especially living in the "new ground." Here decaying vegetation, added to the above supposed causes, was thought to be the reason for such pernicious attacks of malaria as "black jaundice," hæmaturia, etc. This is easily accounted for when we take into consideration the fact that this is always a favorite breeding place for anopheles mosquitoes. The quantity has as much to do with the virulence as the quality.

Buffalo Bayou is so filthy and oil begrimed that the larvæ of the mosquito cannot exist there, so to fill in or drain the low places about town, pour kerosine on all standing water, cover cisterns with gauze, etc., is the only solution of the problem.

Milk and Food Inspection.

Your veterinary surgeon and meat inspector, Dr. Noble, has been as careful and thorough as possible, yet I am frank to confess that at best, under prevailing conditions, the meat is very superficially inspected. It is impossible for one inspector to examine each animal before and after slaughter, as well as inspect the meat which is brought in ready dressed by the producers. Besides the above mentioned service, much of his time was consumed in making professional visits to the sick and disabled live stock belonging to the city.

The slaughter pens, most of which are just outside the city limits, are all in anything but a sanitary condition, and should be condemned and closed at once. The Houston Packing Co. is the only one that makes any pretense towards keeping abreast of the

times in a sanitary way. I am in favor of not allowing any of the former to do business in the city until they build floors that can be washed with a hose, and properly drain their premises so as not to have a veritable "hog pen" instead of slaughter pens.

It is possible to have an efficient meat inspection system, and I hope you will see fit to give me a capable inspector to be placed at the above packing house, which is sufficiently large to accommodate all the butchers within the corporate limits. This man's whole time should be taken up there in ante and post-mortem inspections. There is no compromise on meat inspection, and it should be enforced to the letter, for just so long as enforced in a careless, hap-hazard manner, just so long will diseased animals be slaughtered and their carcasses used for human food. Our law is a most excellent one, but how can your Health Department be expected to enforce the provisions of the law unless we be allowed a sufficient number of men to do the inspection.

As far as the use of preservatives for milk during the hot season is concerned, the several preservatives formerly used have been dispensed with almost entirely for that of formaldehyde (freezine). It requires a very small quantity (1-2000 of 1 per cent) of this preparation to keep milk for days without souring. It is often impossible to establish the presence of so small a quantity by chemical analysis, as the drug is very volatile, and in twenty-four hours no trace is left to tell the tale, although it has in the meanwhile served its purpose. While it preserves the milk, it is certainly injurious to health.

By referring to the mortality tables, you will see that we have an unusual number of deaths under five years of age. Over 25 per cent of the total death rate, a total of 163 (over 16 per cent) are recorded as being under one year of age.

It should be understood that two-thirds of all children under one year of age have to be artificially fed. Statistics show conclusively that consumption, typhoid fever, diphtheria and other

diseases are communicated to the human family through the milk supply. I think it is of paramount importance that more time be devoted to this work, which is impossible with our present limited force.

Recommendations.

I hope some day the plane on which we are supposed to work will be elevated somewhat. Instead of my work being limited to the care, professionally, of the city's indigent sick, it rise to the higher plane where the health officer looks to the welfare of the community from a health standpoint, preventing disease, rather than administering to the sick. It is true that the Health Department has power to rectify nuisances when they develop, but it will save much time, trouble and expense if they are prevented.

For years it has been apparent to many that our health laws should be re-codified; obsolete laws should be removed, others modified, and still others added to the code. This will be the more necessary when the new charter is adopted. With the assistance of the Board of Health, we hope to be able to soon submit to you certain proposed changes and additions. A few of the most important that occur to me just now are:

Make arrangements with the Water Company, pending the purchase of the property by the city, for a better quality of water, and pass an ordinance protecting them against the profligate waste of water in the interim.

Clean the bayou of debris, from the dam to the city limits, and beyond.

Require owners of dwellings to furnish their tenants with water.

Declare all dairies and livery stables to be a nuisance when located above the dam, and within one quarter of a mile of the bayou, and order their removal.

Remove all fruit stands from the side-walks.

Require all school teachers to stand a rigid physical examination.

Revise the present plumbing ordinance.

Require all fish markets to have concrete floors and be so arranged as to be washed with a hose.

Respectfully submitted,

W. M. BRUMBY, M. D.,

City Health Officer.

Expenses of Department.

Expenses of the department during the year were as follows:

January.....	\$ 1,794.00
February.....	1,763.92
March.....	1,899.64
April.....	1,454.67
May.....	1,089.70
June.....	938.27
July.....	802.20
August.....	728.80
September.....	621.40
October.....	562.95
November.....	567.00
December.....	517.45
Total.....	\$12,740.00

Summary of Births Reported for the Year Ending December 31, 1902.

MONTH	White	Black	Unknown	Total
January.....	26	9	.....	35
February.....	26	16	1	43
March.....	28	8	1	37
April.....	30	15	.....	45
May.....	12	7	.....	19
June.....	24	10	.....	34
July.....	39	11	1	51
August.....	30	15	2	47
September.....	30	11	.....	41
October.....	37	12	.....	49
November.....	28	7	.....	35
December.....	21	17	.....	38
Totals.....	331	138	5	474

Classified List of Causes of Death for Year Ending December 31, 1902.

CLASS A—GENERAL DISEASES.

NAME OF DISEASE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept'ber	October	November	December	Total
<i>Specific Febrile (Zymotic).</i>													
Diphtheria (includes Membranous Group)	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	5
Influenza (La Grippe)	2	1	1	3	3	15	11	11	11	9	5	1	5
Malarial Fevers	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	70
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Scarlet Fever	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Smallpox	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
Typhoid Fever	1	1	1	1	4	2	5	4	2	4	2	3	29
<i>Diarrheal.</i>													
Cholera Infantum	1	1	1	1	6	2	2	1	3	2	3	2	23
Cholera Morbus	1	1	1	1	3	4	6	1	1	1	2	1	22
Dysentery	1	1	1	2	3	4	6	1	1	1	2	1	22
<i>Veneral.</i>													
Syphilis, acquired	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Syphilis, congenital	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Septic.</i>													
Erysipelas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Puerperal Septicemia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Pyemia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Septicemia	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	11
Tetanus	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Trismus Neonatorum	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
<i>Dietetic.</i>													
Malnutrition	2	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Inanition	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	4	1	18

Constitutional.

<i>Constitutional.</i>											
Anemia, Chlorosis.....	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4	2	2
Carcinoma.....	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	21
Rheumatism.....	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	5
Sarcoma.....	18	9	9	9	6	7	9	7	8	15	115
Tuberculosis.....											
<i>Developmental.</i>											
Atelectasis, congenital.....			1								3
Marasmus, Infantile.....	1		1	3		2	2	1	3	1	14
Marasmus, Senile.....						1					1
Premature Births.....	6	1			2	2					1
Senility.....			2	2	2	2	4	2	5	3	35

Developmental.

Atelectasis, congenital.....	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Marasmus, Infantile.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
Marasmus, Senile.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Premature Births.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Senility.....	6	1	3	2	2	2	35

CLASS B—LOCAL DISEASES.

Nervous System.

[illegible]

Summary of Deaths by Ages for the Year Ending December 31, 1902.

AGE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept'ber	October	November	December	Total
Under 1 year.....	9	5	13	15	18	16	14	14	16	11	18	14	163
1 to 5 years.....	5	5	7	2	4	11	7	7	6	4	7	4	69
5 to 10 years.....	2	1	.....	2	4	2	2	.....	1	3	1	2	20
10 to 20 years.....	8	3	5	6	1	4	7	2	1	2	4	2	45
20 to 30 years.....	15	10	15	14	7	9	13	12	7	10	4	18	134
30 to 40 years.....	13	10	10	13	6	8	11	11	5	8	13	14	123
40 to 50 years.....	11	8	15	15	5	5	11	9	11	6	12	8	116
50 to 60 years.....	6	6	10	3	8	7	6	9	6	10	10	7	88
60 to 70 years.....	10	4	6	12	12	12	6	7	7	9	7	8	100
70 to 80 years.....	9	4	6	2	1	.....	3	3	2	4	3	6	43
80 to 90 years.....	2	2	2	1	2	1	.....	1	1	1	4	4	21
90 to 100 years.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Totals.....	91	58	90	85	68	77	81	75	63	68	83	87	926

Non-residents and still-births not included.

Summary of Vital Statistics—Colors and Sexes.

MONTH	WHITES		BLACKS		TOTAL		TOTAL	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Whites	Blacks
January.....	35	17	16	23	51	40	52	39
February.....	16	12	18	12	34	24	28	30
March.....	29	17	32	12	61	29	46	44
April.....	26	24	21	14	47	38	50	35
May.....	24	17	15	12	39	29	41	27
June.....	23	23	16	15	39	38	46	31
July.....	23	16	17	25	40	41	39	42
August.....	34	15	16	10	50	25	49	26
September.....	21	12	17	13	38	25	33	30
October.....	27	16	15	10	42	26	43	25
November.....	35	14	14	20	49	34	49	34
December.....	26	24	22	15	48	39	50	37
Totals.....	319	207	219	181	538	388	526	400

Grand Total..... 926

Annual death rate per 1,000, estimated population 60,000.... 15.43

Non-residents and still births not included.

**Summary of Contagious Diseases for Year Ending
December 31, 1902.**

DISEASE	CASES		DEATHS		TOTAL
	Whites	Blacks	Whites	Blacks	Deaths
Tuberculosis.....			50	65	115
*Smallpox.....	93	136	.....	6	6
Typhoid Fever.....			15	10	25
Diphtheria.....	16		5	.....	5
Scarlet Fever.....	29		3	.....	3
Totals.....	138	136	73	81	154

Tuberculosis and Typhoid Fever cases not reported.

* Two cases non-residents of city.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

A. R. RAILEY,

JUDGE OF THE CORPORATION COURT,
CITY OF HOUSTON,

For the Year Ending
December 31, 1902.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, January 10, 1903.

HON. O. T. HOLT,

Mayor.

DEAR SIR—In compliance with your request, I beg to submit herewith my annual report, showing the number of cases tried in the Corporation Court during the year 1902, and the disposition made of same:

MONTH	CASES			FINES AND COSTS
	Tried	Fined	Acquitted, Nolle Prossed and Dismissed	
January, 1902.....	145	67	78	\$ 735.05
February, 1902.....	138	60	78	849.30
March, 1902.....	220	97	123	1,024.20
April, 1902.....	251	130	121	1,378.95
May, 1902.....	284	141	143	1,525.75
June, 1902.....	209	108	101	1,157.05
July, 1902.....	261	160	101	1,660.40
August, 1902.....	259	147	112	1,654.60
September, 1902.....	271	165	106	1,757.75
October, 1902.....	254	140	114	2,220.90
November, 1902	235	142	93	1,473.80
December, 1902.....	256	139	117	1,757.75
Total.....	2,783	1,496	1,287	\$17,195.50

Respectfully submitted,

A. R. RAILEY,
Judge Corporation Court.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

CLARENCE R. GEORGE,

CITY ELECTRICIAN,

For the Year Ending
December 31, 1902.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, January 10, 1903.

HON. O. T. HOLT,

Mayor.

DEAR SIR—I have the honor to submit this my annual report for the year ending December 31, 1902, which contains a detailed statement of all matters of interest pertaining thereto, with valuation of the fire alarm system as is in use in each engine house; the outside construction of wires and alarm boxes and fixtures thereto; Central Fire alarm office and its instruments; the inspection of houses wired for electrical service; permits issued for the use of electrical service, and other matters pertaining to the duties of this office.

You will also find embodied some very valuable recommendations for the rapid transmission of fire alarms, and the placing of new alarm boxes, of which we are badly in need in those parts of the city so rapidly building and heretofore unprotected by this valuable means of calling on the fire department when needed, and when placed as herein recommended will be of great benefit to the people in the immediate vicinity of the alarm boxes.

**Total Value of Equipment of the
“Fire Alarm System.”**

Central Fire Alarm Office.....	\$ 4,316.75
Central Fire Station.....	887.00
Engine House No. 1.....	298.50
Engine House No. 5.....	253.50
Engine House No. 6.....	255.25
Engine House No. 7.....	265.50
Engine House No. 8.....	290.00
Engine House No. 9.....	268.50
Engine House No. 10.....	299.00
Outside construction throughout the city, including all alarm boxes and other fixtures thereto.....	13,017.20
Grand total.....	\$ 20,151.20

The above figures do not include the number of private alarm boxes attached to the system, and do not include the large amount of material furnished to the city by the telephone companies, which is of considerable value, and has been a saving of several thousand dollars to the city for such material as is used in the construction of the fire alarm lines.

Location of Fire Alarm Boxes.

Box Number	STREET LOCATION	Box Number	STREET LOCATION
12	Holly and Edwards.	325	Gray and Caroline.
13	Washington and Seventh.	326	Main and McGowan.
14	Houston and Edwards.	327	Jackson and Dennis.
15	Houston and Crockett.	331	McGowan and Austin.
16	Waters-Pierce Oil Co. Ware- house, Washington & Third.	332	Chenevert and Pierce.
112	Holly and Crockett.	334	Harrisburg Road and Roberts
113	Sabine and Summer.	341	Central Fire Station.
114	Alamo and Colorado.	342	No. 1 Engine House, 612 Fannin
		343	Jefferson and St. Emanuel.
21	Main and Franklin, keyless door starting box.	41	Main and Preston, keyless door starting box.
23	Congress and Austin.	42	Milam and Congress, keyless door starting box.
24	Lyle and I. & G. N. Crossing.	43	Capitol and Louisiana.
25	Congress and Dowling, I. & G. N. Passenger Depot.	44	Rice Hotel Office, private box, owned by same.
26	German and I. & G. N. Place.	45	Milam and McKinney.
27	Chenevert and Magnolia.	46	Dallas and Smith.
28	Buffalo and Commerce.	47	San Felipe and Bagby.
212	Engelke and Grand.	412	San Felipe and Meyer.
213	No. 10 Engine House, 205 Chartres.	413	Brazos and Gray.
31	Main and Capitol, keyless door starting box.	415	Main and Clay.
32	Main and McKinney.	416	Milam and Leeland.
34	Texas and La Branch.	421	Smith and Tuam.
35	Preston and Chenevert.	422	No. 7 Engine House, 2503 Milam
36	Austin and McKinney.	51	Willow and Wood.
37	Main and Pease.	52	Liberty and Chapman.
312	Jackson and Rusk.	53	Montgomery and Shea.
313	Austin and Pease.	54	Nance and Hill.
314	Live Oak and Rusk.	56	Semmes and Providence.
315	Chartres and McKinney.	57	Hardy and Opelousas.
316	McKinney and Dowling.	512	Odin and Carr.
321	Chartres and Bell.	513	Lorraine and Maury.
323	Crawford and Jefferson.	514	Harrington and Chestnut.
324	No. 8 Engine House, 1317 Crawford.	515	Noble and Terry.
		516	Hogan and Fulton.

Location of Fire Alarm Boxes—Continued.

Box Number	STREET LOCATION	Box Number	STREET LOCATION
517	No. 9 Engine House, 810 Keene	61	Preston and Cushman Place.
521	Hill and Foot, Hill St. Bridge.	62	Washington and Houston.
523	No. 5 Engine House, 910 Hardy	63	Sabine and State.
524	Odin and Lyons Ave.	64	Washington and Sabine.
525	Odin and Clark.	65	Henderson and Kane.
531	Brooks and Hardy.	67	Washington and Taylor.
532	Sumpter and Carr.	612	No. 6 Engine House, 1106
533	West and Southern Pacific		Washington.
	Crossing.	613	Silver and Edwards.
		614	Henderson and Centre.

Inspections and Permits.

Number of inspections of electric power wiring	201
Number of inspections of incandescent electric light wiring . . .	529
Number of telephone poles inspected	213
Number of electric light poles inspected	233
Number of electric street car poles inspected	256
Number of permits to erect telephone poles	139
Number of permits to erect electric light poles	201
Number of permits to erect electric street car poles	34
Number of permits for arc lights	12
Number of permits for incandescent electric light wiring	620
Number of permits for electric power wiring	201
Number of buildings condemned account of dangerous electric wires by written notice (no record is kept of verbal notice given)	16
Receipts and deposits with City Treasurer	\$1,396.20

Amount of money collected, one thousand, three hundred and ninety six dollars and twenty cents (\$1,396.20), same having been deposited with the City Treasurer.

Referring to the above inspections, these figures only show one trip to each place where the work was in course of construction, but in nine out of every ten cases it is necessary to make from three to five inspections on each job in course of construction, so that we may be positively assured that there is no chance for fire caused by defects in the electric wiring. In electric wiring special attention must be paid to the mechanical exe-

cution of the work. Careful and neat installation of the wires and fixtures thereto, fittings and approved material are the only kind allowed installed by this office, and for such information I keep in constant touch with the electrical experts of the National Board of Fire Underwriters' Laboratory, where all the latest electrical appliances are sent for their examination and approval. Not only do the people having their buildings wired for electrical service get the assurance of being safe from fire caused by defective wires, but they also get the latest approved material.

Recommendations for New Fire Alarm Boxes.

At least twenty-five more fire alarm boxes should be provided and distributed throughout the city. With the present number of boxes in operation, the loss of much valuable time is often made necessary, because of the nearest alarm box being so far distant from the scene of the fire. The loss of this time at the breaking out of a fire frequently results in the destruction of much property that otherwise might be saved. The loss by a single fire occasioned by such delay would often defray the expenses of the placing of a number of boxes.

You will note the following locations I have carefully selected for the placing of new fire alarm boxes:

Chartres and Texas, Hamilton and Polk, Hadley and LaBranch, Main and Anita.

Main and Gray, Jackson and Lamar, San Jacinto and Walker, Congress and Fannin.

Crawford and Franklin, Commerce and Shepard, Commerce and Travis, Milam and Prairie.

Milam and Calhoun, Crosby and Andrews, San Felipe and Fourth Street, Dallas and Travis.

McKinney and Bagby, Elgin and Louisiana, Reisner and Silver, State and White.

Trinity and Lubbock, Cline and Bayou, Montgomery and Waverly, Montgomery and Paschall and all public schools.

In anticipation of the extension of the present city limits, I would also recommend that your honorable body provide for the purchasing of not less than seventy-five additional fire alarm boxes for the new territory to be taken in by the city, in addition to the twenty-five already recommended for the present city limits as shown in the above list of locations. While recommending the installation of additional fire alarm boxes, I think that it is important that I should call the attention of your honorable body to the following:

In selecting the above mentioned locations for the placing of the twenty-five fire alarm boxes herein recommended to be placed within the present city limits, I would state that these localities are very badly in need of fire alarm service. Of course, there are other parts of the city that are badly in need of the same service, and I could very easily place more than double the number asked for, and yet be in need of the required number for giving perfect distribution as they should be; at the same time the twenty-five boxes will be of considerable value added to the present system. In some parts of the city, and especially those parts that are so rapidly growing and building up, there are very few telephones and no fire alarm boxes; and when a fire is discovered in such unprotected districts there are no means at hand with which to send in an alarm. This delay naturally allows the fire to gain considerable headway by the time the alarm is sounded, and in a great many cases the property is a total loss. Then, again, if the party discovering the fire could have gotten to a telephone to send in the alarm, there is still considerable time lost in re-transmitting the alarm to the engine houses, as this method of transmission generally takes between seven and ten minutes; whereas, if there were a fire alarm box in the immediate vicinity of the fire, the alarm can be sounded and the department on their way to the scene of the fire in less than one minute.

The loss of a few minutes time after the discovery of a fire

often means the loss of thousands of dollars' worth of property, and sometimes human life.

Can the importance of the addition of more fire alarm boxes to the prompt and definite alarm system such as we now have be over-estimated? The saving of valuable time by the use of the fire alarm box in calling out the fire department rescues thousands of dollars' worth of property, and in some cases human life, from fire every year.

The city may be possessed of a good water supply, and is possessed of a well organized fire department, but without the fire alarm box when needed, neither is available at the time when they would prove most valuable.

With the increased number of boxes, and located as herein mentioned, the usefulness of the fire department would be increased in a ratio which would make the cost of the fire alarm system insignificant in comparison.

It furnishes to every property owner the means near at hand in case of fire for giving an instantaneous and definite alarm, and assures the people in the vicinity where a fire alarm box is located of some protection against that dangerous enemy—fire—as they know that the fire alarm box is the proper, and most reliable, and ever-ready means for calling out the fire department when needed.

You will note in the recommendation for alarm boxes, I recommend that a box be placed in each of the public schools. My personal observation and experience at the destruction by fire of the Fannin School, two years ago, gives me reason for this recommendation.

At the time that building caught fire, I was within a few blocks of the school, and could see the smoke coming out of the roof of the building; I next saw the children running out of the building, then I was sure that it was on fire, so I ran to the nearest alarm box to turn in the alarm, which is located on the corner of Smith Street and Tuam Avenue; but as I reached the box that same

moment another party turned it in. Now if there had been an alarm box in the school building, the alarm could have been immediately sounded, probably five minutes sooner, and less damage probably resulted.

Care and Attention of the Fire Alarm System.

In the construction, care and maintenance of the fire alarm system, too much care cannot be devoted to keep it to a high standard of efficiency, as it is of that class of electrical appliance that must be ever reliable at all times and in all conditions of weather. Everything should be of the best material and workmanship. Much of the apparatus must be placed out-of-doors, exposed to wind and rain and the constantly recurring changes of our climate; hence the finer parts must be carefully taken care of and kept adjusted accordingly. Portions of the system may stand unused, even for months, but when needed it must respond quickly and correctly. A single failure might result in a loss beyond the cost of the entire system.

Having had the fire alarm system under my supervision for a number of years, I have made a close study of its needs, and I have found that it is a poor economy which regards cheapness as of more importance than reliability, and this with my past experience alone has prompted me to use care and judgment in the selection and use of all instruments and material in connection with the system; even to the men employed, I have been careful to select none but those who I knew had experience in this particular branch of the electrical business, and reliable at all times for close attention to their respective duty, either day or night, as is required in this service.

Improvement and Work on the Fire Alarm.

Replaced two spans of wire on Smith Street, between Drew Street and Tuam Avenue, on account of bad insulation.

Double armed terminal pole on the corner of Montgomery Avenue and Harrington Street, for the support of heavy wires.

Double armed terminal pole for fire alarm box 514, at the corner of Chestnut and Harrington Streets.

Changed position of fire alarm wires at the corner of Houston Avenue and Edwards Street, to prevent trouble from crosses with telephone wires.

Replaced cross-arm on Edwards Street at the corner of Sabine, old cross-arm having been split by lightning.

Double armed terminal pole at fire alarm box 13, Washington and Seventh Streets.

Double armed terminal pole at fire alarm box 513, Loraine and Maury Streets.

Took down two wires from Mr. Frank Smith's residence; the Superintendent of the Water Company, and removed one six-inch house gong.

The new city stables were partly wired for the Street Commissioner, for the purpose of putting in incandescent lights for lighting the stables, but never finished.

The fire alarm house gong in use at the residence of ex-Chief Hussey was removed and the wire taken down from the house; this gong was then placed in the residence of Assistant Fire Chief Dissen, having to run wire on Jackson Street from Texas Avenue to Prairie Avenue, using about 700 feet of wire; again this same gong was removed to 1204 Dallas Street, where the Assistant Chief had moved, using about the same amount of wire and material.

All fire alarm boxes have been painted with two coats of paint, well cleaned, and in addition to painting the boxes I had a red band painted around each pole that a box was placed on, so as to enable it to be seen from a distance and make it as conspicuous as possible.

Placed thirty-five steel fixtures and the same number of pins and glass insulators, for the support of the new fire alarm

wires, on the Southwestern Telephone Company's poles on Bayou Street, between the La Porte railroad track and Odin Avenue.

Put on ten pole brackets and glass insulators on the Western Union Telegraph Company's poles along the La Porte railroad track, between Hill and Bayou Streets.

Run one wire from Hill Street on the Western Union Telegraph poles along the La Porte railroad track to Bayou Street, then on the Southwestern Telephone Company's poles on Bayou Street to Odin Avenue, using about one and one-fourth mile of wire.

Cut loop lines of boxes 52 and 56 and Engine House No. 5 from the right to left side of the Fifth Ward circuits, so that the right side wire could be removed to another route for new boxes.

Took down one wire from the H. E. & W. T. freight depot, through the railroad yards to Hill Street.

Wired new stables in the rear of No. 8 Engine House for electric lights.

Took down one wire from Wood Street, on Walnut Street to Providence Street; on Providence Street to Semmes Street; on Semmes Street to Odin Avenue; on Odin Avenue to Bayou Street.

Run two wires on Summer Street, from Houston Avenue to Sabine Street.

Run one wire on the Postal Telegraph Company's poles from Winter Street, on Holly Street to Spring Street; on Spring Street to Houston Avenue; on Houston Avenue to Alamo Street; on Alamo Street to Colorado Street; then run another wire on Alamo Street, from Colorado Street to Houston Avenue; on Houston Avenue to Spring Street, then connecting it to the First Ward circuit.

Run two wires from Odin Avenue on West Street to the S. P. railroad track; then on the S. P. railroad track to Carr Street; on Carr Street to Sumpter Street, and put on nine six pin cross-arms on the Western Union Telegraph Company's poles on Carr Street, between Burnett and Sumpter Streets. These wires were

run jointly on the Western Union Telegraph Company and the Citizen's Telephone Company's poles on West, Carr, Southern Pacific railroad and Burnett Street.

Run two wires on Chenevert Street from Jefferson to Pierce Avenue; set one forty-foot pole at the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Chenevert Street.

Run one wire on Congress Avenue, from Dowling to St. Charles Street, two wires on Harrisburg Road from St. Charles to Roberts Street, one wire on Buffalo Street from Congress to Commerce Avenue.

New Fire Alarm Boxes Placed and Those Changed.

I have placed during the past year the following new fire alarm boxes:

Box No. 112—Located at Holly and Crockett Streets.

Box No. 113—Located at Sabine and Summer Streets.

Box No. 114—Located at Alamo and Colorado Streets.

Box No. 331—Located at McGowan and Austin Streets.

Box No. 332—Located at Chenevert and Pierce Avenues.

Box No. 334—Located at Harrisburg Road and Roberts Street.

Box No. 525—Located at Odin Avenue and Clark Street.

Box No. 531—Located at Brooks and Hardy Streets.

Box No. 532—Located at Sumpter and Carr Streets.

Box No. 533—Located at West and Southern Pacific railroad crossing, on Burnett Street.

Box No. 12—Moved from center of block on Holly Street, between Bingham and Winter, to the corner of Holly and Bingham Streets, to divide the distance between boxes 12 and 112.

Box No. 28—Removed from old to new pole, and from the northwest to the southwest corner of Buffalo Street and Commerce Avenue.

I have also placed an auxiliarized fire alarm box in the office of the Rice Hotel. This box was placed at the expense of Mr.

James Lawlor, proprietor, and is especially arranged so that the entire building can be connected by auxiliary boxes distributed throughout the hotel, as may be desired, and in case of fire the alarm can be sent from the part of the building that it is discovered in without running to the box located in the office on the ground floor, as the starting of the auxiliary box starts the main box; hence the alarm is instantaneously transmitted from the very seat of the fire. By this system you will readily see that the great saving of time in the handling of alarms for fire is being considered by the public. This box was used on the night of Si Packard Laundry fire, and the Chief of the Fire Department gives it the credit for the quick time made in getting to that fire, much to his advantage in handling that fire.

The use of private boxes in large office buildings, warehouses, mills, etc., should have encouragement, as many a large and disastrous fire could be avoided by the saving of the time lost in finding some distant means by which to sound the alarm.

Overhead Wires.

Referring to the dangerous wires now run in every direction over the city, and especially those so thick in the business portion of the city, they have increased to such a vast number in the last few years that it is positively dangerous to the large crowds of people who use the public thoroughfares daily, and the danger increases in bad weather. The public demand for telephone and electric light service has increased so rapidly in the last few years that the companies controlling such wires have made no provisions for their construction other than along the same old pole lines in this city, and now we find their wires getting thicker and more dangerous overhead than ever. One of the telephone companies has placed some of its cables underground, but not with the consideration of avoiding the overhead wire danger to the public's good; but, on the other hand, they were placed under-

ground to avoid the overloading of their pole lines and maintenance thereof. It is almost a daily occurrence that telephone or electric light wires fall on the trolley wires of the Street Railway Company.

Not only are the overhead wires of such danger to the daily pedestrians, but they are a great nuisance to the Fire Department when endeavoring to extinguish fires in the upper stories of mercantile establishments, especially in handling the ladders in the main part of the city. It has been my endeavor to control these wires in such a manner that I could always leave a way clear to all of the larger buildings for the Fire Department to get their ladders up, but they are becoming so thick that they are getting beyond my control. This unnecessary menace to life and property should not be tolerated; and I sincerely trust that your honorable body will see fit to adopt means to relieve the public of this existing danger as early as possible.

The underground system is not an experiment, but a thoroughly practical plan, which assures a more satisfactory service than the overhead wires.

As an example of the successful service of the underground, I have the Binz and the Kiam buildings for that proof. The Binz building has been working from the underground system for about four years. The wires on the Kiam building were so thick that I took up the matter of placing them underground with the officials of the Southwestern Telephone Company, and the results are that the building is now clear of all telephone wires, they having been brought into the building by the underground system, making it a very easy matter to handle in case of fire.

Private Telephone System Between Engine Houses.

A system of private telephones and signals should be established between the Central Fire Station and all of the engine houses. This system could be installed at a very reasonable cost,

of probably less than five hundred dollars, and would enable the Chief and officials of the Fire Department to be in easy touch with the other houses at all times, day and night. It would afford a system of signals for reporting to the Central Station as often as may be deemed necessary at night by the man on watch to the Chief, and will enable him to readily see by the report that each man has reported during the night as often as he has been instructed to do. This system can be worked over the same wires used for the private telephones. They can also be used for transmitting fire alarms.

Tower Bell.

The large bell now lying in the ruins of the City Hall is of no use to the city in its present condition, but could be of great benefit, not only to the Fire Department, but to the public at large. By its loud ringing, it gives warning to the motormen of street cars and to people in the street and drivers of vehicles, of the approach of the Fire Department apparatus, and in many cases would avoid collisions, which are always liable to occur when running to fires. This bell could be erected on the property owned by the city at the corner of Texas Avenue and San Jacinto Street, on a stand ten feet above ground, and when the new City Hall is completed, could be removed to the town clock tower. As it is necessary to purchase a new striker for this bell when it is placed in the new City Hall, I would recommend that it be placed as above mentioned until the new tower is built.

Electrolytic Deterioration of Water Pipes, Gas Pipes and Telephone Cables.

In consideration of the city now contemplating the purchase of the present water works system, I think that it becomes my duty to inform your honorable body of the present existing evil and ultimate destruction of the water pipes, gas pipes and telephone cables by electricity. In my opinion, it has also a certain

amount of influence towards the destruction of the approaches of all iron bridges now crossing the bayou, except the new bridge at Franklin Avenue, which I have taken the necessary precaution to prevent.

To further explain my reasons for the above, I herein give you the following information:

The electric current that is supplied to the street cars from the power house travels out to the cars on the trolley wire, thence into the car, from the car to the rails of the track, and is supposed to return to the originating point at the power house (the dynamo); but instead of traveling the rails, it attacks other subterranean metals, such as water pipes, gas pipes and telephone cables. Not only does it attack underground cables, but I have made tests that show its attack on the overhead cables as well.

Therefore you will understand that this is not an experiment, but an actual fact, and does exist in this city. The gas company have been sufferers of this electrolysis action on their pipes. The Southwestern Telephone Company have taken such precautions as would give them relief to their cables.

The real cause for this unnecessary menace is due to the poor and improper electrical bond connection of the street railway tracks and insufficient return system for the current supplied from the power house, and unless the city takes some steps to force a remedy, it will only be a matter of a short time that the entire water pipe system will become defective.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, I wish to extend thanks to his honor, the Mayor, and the Board of Aldermen for their able assistance given me in the discharge of my duties; and with your assistance for the coming year, I will endeavor to make the fire alarm system second to none, of which the city of Houston will be justly proud.

I also wish to extend my thanks to my assistants, Messrs. Frank A. Peters and John S. Luckie, for their continued and close attention to their respective duties, for which they are highly commended.

I take great pleasure in extending my thanks to Chief Arto and his men of the Fire Department for their kindness and the harmonious working of the two departments.

The officials of the Southwestern Telephone Company and the Electric Light Company are also due my thanks for their kindness in furnishing me whatever material I have requested of them for use in the construction and repairs to the fire alarm system.

Very respectfully submitted,

CLARENCE R. GEORGE,
City Electrician.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

A. R. MILLER,

MARKET MASTER,

For the Year Ending
December 31, 1092.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, January 10, 1903.

HON. O. T. HOLT,

Mayor.

DEAR SIR—I herewith submit my report on the present condition of the Market Department. I also offer a few suggestions in regard to same.

The destruction of the Market House by fire a year and a half ago has, as a matter of course, reduced the receipts during the corresponding time. The hucksters peddling on the streets no longer take out market licenses, thus further reducing the revenue. Further on I suggest a remedy in regard to this matter.

A great deal of satisfaction is expressed by the market stall renters from the fact that the city is soon to replace the Market House ruins with a new building.

In the construction of the Market Department a good deal of attention and care should be given to the proper arrangement of stalls or booths for the various kinds of business to be carried on. It is of the utmost importance that each stand should be provided with sewer connection, so that refrigerators can be placed in them. The stalls should be something far different from the old, out-of-date ones formerly in the old market. In this connection I would suggest that at the proper time a committee be appointed to suggest plans for their construction, whose recommendations are to be submitted to the Council for final action.

The fish department should be so arranged that it would be possible to flush it each day without interfering with the other sections of the market.

One of the most important adjuncts to a market is a first-class floor. The cement floor in the old building was always

a nuisance, on account of its porous and uneven surface. As a result, all drippings from meats, fish, offal from fruits and vegetables, were either absorbed or trodden upon and into the floor, there to remain, to a great extent, as it was absolutely impossible to wash out all smell and impurities on the rough surface. On account of the great amount of traffic, it would, in my opinion, be impossible to get a cement floor hard enough to retain a perfectly smooth surface. Therefore, it is necessary to have a floor of other material than cement.

I would suggest one constructed of marble or English tiles. It would give the new market a most pleasing, and I might say appetizing, appearance, and, in my opinion, would be the most durable and sanitary floor that could be had. While it might cost more than one of other material at the outset, it would be the cheapest and best in the end. (I make this suggestion for the reason that I am informed it is intended to put a cement floor in the new market.)

The farmers and gardeners who attend the market are very much pleased at the prospect of soon having a shed built on the west side of the square to back their wagons under, instead of being out on the street in the weather, as now.

The farmers and truck growers who come to the City Market with their produce should be encouraged to the fullest extent. They are the foundation of the institution. They should be protected from unjust competition by hucksters who peddle their goods during market hours (from 3 a. m. to 9 a. m.) without taking out a market license, as formerly. The peddler sells at all hours of the day on an occupation license that costs him a very nominal sum per day, while the wagons at the market pay 25 cents. No restrictions are printed on the face of the occupation license issued by the Assessor and Collector—simply the length of time that it is to run, the name of the person to whom issued and the nature of his occupation appears—and for that

reason the peddlers claim the city gives them the right to go out at all hours of the day. In order to give the market this much needed protection, I would, therefore, suggest that all occupation licenses issued to hucksters stipulate upon their face that such license can only be used after 9 a. m. each day. If the hucksters desire to peddle on the streets during market hours, let them pay the necessary market tax, and in this way every stall renter, farmer and truck grower at the City Market would be protected. I believe the city has a right to do this under the existing charter and ordinances. The city, up to a few years ago, derived quite a revenue from this source, but it has gradually grown less until now it is a thing of the past. The city should always keep in view the welfare of the producer who attends its market; he should not be restrained in any manner as to how he should dispose of his produce.* It has been suggested to me that the city should only allow him to wholesale his stuff to retailers on the market square, and to prohibit him from retailing to those who come to the market to buy; but such a regulation would tend to lessen competition, and as a result the consumer would in all probability be compelled to pay a higher price for what he bought, and the producer would receive less from his products than before. Always protect the producer who comes with his wagon to Market Square (as no doubt was intended by the founders of the institution), and the success of the market is assured. Otherwise it will gradually grow less, until finally, after a decade or two, it will flourish no longer.

As soon as the construction of the new market is begun, quite a number of those now occupying stalls will have to vacate their present places. The city should make some sort of arrangement, if possible, to retain them on the market place. If this cannot be done, the market revenues for the current year will be greatly reduced.

Following are the receipts for the year 1902:

-

Receipts for 1902.

January	\$ 687.25
February	677.50
March	715.50
April	743.75
May	802.25
June	842.50
July	811.75
August	865.00
September	801.25
October	808.50
November	841.25
December	818.75
Total	<u>\$9,415.25</u>

Respectfully submitted,

A. R. MILLER,

Market Master.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

MATT DRENNAN,

STREET COMMISSIONER,

For the Year Ending
December 31, 1902.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, January 10, 1903.

HON. O. T. HOLT,
Mayor.

DEAR SIR—I beg to submit herewith a report of the work done in the Street and Bridge Department for the year 1902:

Expenses of Department.

The total expenses of this department for the fiscal year of 1901-02, ending December 31, 1902, was \$45,386.20, which was expended as follows:

Cleaning paved streets.....	\$ 2,688.10
Flushing gutters	3,614.25
Flushing paved streets.....	1,323.90
Repairing paved streets.....	1,583.00
Ditching and filling holes... ..	9,425.60
Carpenters in Bridge Building Department.....	2,782.00
Foreman of Bridge Building Department.....	723.75
Foreman of Teams and Grading.....	596.00
Teamsters and laborers... ..	10,255.75
Permanent bridge repairs.....	434.30
Total	\$ 33,425.95

Monthly Salary.

Total amount paid in salaries.....	\$ 4,420.00
Total amount paid for feed.....	1,656.99
Total amount paid for lumber.....	3,423.63
To blacksmithing and repairing.....	568.28
To harness and repair.....	68.00
To hardware and tool accounts.. ..	674.55
To material.....	29.37
Drugs.....	4.55
Printing	20.60
Sundries.....	62.20
Special and permanent street improvements.....	1,031.98
Total.....	\$ 11,960.25

List of Permanent Improvements.

To repairs San Jacinto Street Bridge	\$ 383.75
To building fence at City Stable.....	92.00
To grading and graveling Crockett Street.....	426.84
To excavating and graveling Lyle Street.....	351.75
To graveling Clay, between Louisiana and Smith Streets...	5.75
To graveling Second Street.....	63.10
To graveling approaches Milam Street Bridge.....	84.00
To graveling Giraud Street	48.35
To graveling Chenevert, between Franklin and McKinney..	94.00
To graveling Lamar, from Main to City Park.....	64.00
To graveling Jackson, between Congress and Franklin	34.50
To spreading gravel from Hamilton to Maple.....	24.50
To grading Brazos and Liberty Streets	19.50
To grading and filling holes on Houston Avenue.....	73.00
To cutting down intersections of La Branch and Leeland ..	45.15
To widening fill on Brazos, between Rusk and Walker.....	136.00
To cutting down and changing intersections of Pease, Bell, Travis and Leeland.....	48.75
To grading at Beauchamp Springs.....	48.15
To repairing pavement Harrisburg Road.....	58.15
To filling yard Stephen F. Austin School.....	100.00
To filling yard at Dow School.....	126.30
To digging Leeland Avenue ditch.....	149.88
Total.....	\$ 2,477.42

Distribution of Work by Wards.

First Ward.....	\$ 3,895.11
Second Ward.....	4,621.05
Third Ward.....	7,806.18
Fourth Ward.....	5,133.27
Fifth Ward.....	5,993.06
Sixth Ward.....	3,499.87
Total.....	\$ 30,948.54

Lumber Account.

Amount received January.....	19,206 feet	
Amount received February	16,175 "	
Amount received March.....	.....
Amount received April.....	38,663 "	
Amount received May.....	1,362 "	
Amount received June.....	2,000 "	
Amount received July.....	21,424 "	
Amount received August.....	5,400 "	
Amount received September.....	27,442 "	
Amount received October.....	3,667 "	
Amount received November.....	2,480 "	
Amount received December.....	11,428 "	
Total amount received		149,247 feet.
Amount used January.....	8,926 feet	
Amount used February.....	10,985 "	
Amount used March.....	13,139 "	
Amount used April.....	13,718 "	
Amount used May.....	17,878 "	
Amount used June.....	8,700 "	
Amount used July.....	15,046 "	
Amount used August.....	14,177 "	
Amount used September.....	12,672 "	
Amount used October.....	12,505 "	
Amount used November.....	8,264 "	
Amount used December.....	5,825 "	
Total amount used.....		141,835 feet.
Balance on hand.....		7,412 feet.

Inventory of Stock and Material on Hand in the Bridge and Street Department.

Four Horses.....	\$ 250.00
Fourteen Mules	1,875.00
Nine Wagons.....	360.00
One Cart	25.00
Nine Sets Double Harness.....	90.00
One Set Single Harness	5.00
Three Wheel Scrapers	105.00
Four Drag Scrapers	16.00
One Street Sprinkler.....	40.00
One Street Grader.....	30.00
One Street Sweeper	350.00
One Plow.....	35.00
Two Plow Chains.....	3.00
Sixteen Halters.....	4.80
Twelve Curry Combs	1.80
Twelve Brushes	2.40
One Street Roller	100.00
One Pile Driver, complete.....	1,389.90

One street grader, three wheel scrapers, two street sweepers (no

good), two boxes street brooms, three bundles handles, five barrels copperas, nine barrels roofing paint, twenty-one trash cans, one 12-inch wrench, one 8-inch Stelson wrench, one 14-inch Stelson wrench, eighty-five feet 1 1-2 inch Manila rope, one hundred feet 1 1-8 inch Manila rope, six hundred feet 1-inch rope, five hundred feet street wash hose, two log hooks, one case axle grease, two axes, one adze, two rakes, one claw bar, three crow bars, one vice, three lanterns, one grind-stone, one saw set, three hammers, two hoes, one hand axe, one saw clamp, one hand saw, two jack screws, forty mattocks, forty shovels, six scythes, six steel bars, one top maul, one post-hole digger, four scoop shovels, two 3-4 inch ship augers, two 5-8 inch ship augers, two wheelbarrows, two crosscut saws and four push carts.

The valuation of the above not valued is about \$161.00.
Total valuation, \$4,843.90.

Respectfully submitted,

MATT DRENNAN,

Street Commissioner.

Number of Men Employed.

The number of men employed in the Street and Bridge Department during the year has averaged as follows, as shown by the weekly pay-roll:

Average per week.

January	97
February	93
March	92
April	81
May	53
June	56
July	62
August	88
September	89
October	55
November	54
December	53

Total number employed during year.....3,782

Average per month..... 315

General average per week..... 79

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

J. KENNEDY,

CITY SCAVENGER,

For the Year Ending
December 31, 1902.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, January 10, 1903.

HON. O. T. HOLT,

Mayor.

DEAR SIR—I beg to submit herewith my annual report, showing the receipts and disbursements and work done in my department during the year 1902:

There are employed in my department four wagon foremen, four drivers, four relief men, two dump laborers, two inspectors, two collectors and one clerk.

Expenses of Department.

The expenses of the department for 1902 were as follows:

	LABOR	GENERAL
January.....	\$1,021.30	\$ 357.80
February.....	1,051.55	417.75
March.....	1,148.15	327.14
April.....	826.00	323.25
May.....	852.95	288.00
June.....	805.45	447.45
July.....	733.00	78.15
August.....	669.50	186.72
September.....	753.10	82.00
October	728.45	53.80
November	726.05	85.25
December	814.40	1,092.99
Total	\$9,949.90	\$3,740.30

\$13,690.20

Fees Collected in 1902.

January	\$ 1,027.50
February	1,298.25
March	1,149.05
April	1,374.65
May	1,659.65
June	1,631.60
July	1,389.60
August	1,253.95
September	1,014.60
October	1,106.40
November	980.50
December	1,165.75
Total	\$15,051.50

Work Performed.

YEAR, 1902	CLEANED	COND'M'D	AMT. DONE
January	1,342	1,205	\$ 1,516.75
February	1,063	1,174	1,326.50
March	1,361	1,313	1,529.00
April	1,007	1,345	1,129.00
May	1,510	1,638	1,706.00
June	1,498	947	1,663.75
July	1,269	1,011	1,411.00
August	1,114	1,183	1,205.00
September	752	703	813.00
October	1,092	783	1,119.50
November	753	932	963.75
December	931	939	1,073.00
Total	13,694	13,173	\$15,456.25

Respectfully submitted,

J. KENNEDY,

City Scavenger.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

O. H. NOLAND,

SUPERINTENDENT OF CITY PARK,

For the Year Ending
December 31, 1902.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, January 10, 1903.

HON. O. T. HOLT,
Mayor.

DEAR SIR—I have the honor to submit this, my annual report for year ending December 31, 1902.

You will find that the expenses of this department have been reduced less than one-half since my appointment, April 26, 1902; although, in some instances, temporary repairs were made when lasting and permanent improvements should have been made, but the funds granted would not permit. The maintenance must necessarily increase as improvements are made, as the play-grounds yearly are more largely patronized, especially so in the Sixth Ward, where but little has been done in the way of beautifying.

This report contains: List of animals, list of birds, list of trees and shrubs, number of acres of land, number of buildings, rules of park, number of men employed, and expenses for each month; also giving total cost of park for year ending December 31, 1902.

Sam Houston Park contains fifteen acres of land, eleven of which are in the Fourth Ward, with two entrances, one on Dallas Avenue and one on Lamar Avenue; four acres in the Sixth Ward, with two entrances, one on Young's Avenue and one on Stanley Street.

The park is lighted on Sunday nights with five arc lights, and the gates are open until ten o'clock p. m., thus giving those who cannot get out during the day an opportunity for a little recreation after their daily toils.

The monthly expense of conducting the park has been as follows:

Monthly Expense of Park.

January.. . . .	\$752.34
February.....	584.49
March.....	503.86
April.....	443.85
May.....	312.87
June.....	266.44
July.....	297.28
August.....	244.20
September.....	181.02
October.....	203.19
November.....	221.90
December.....	218.57
Total.....	\$4,221.01
Appropriation for park.....	\$5,000.00
Cost of park for four months prior to my appointment.	\$2,275.54
Cost of park for eight months during my term.....	1,945.47
Total cost of park for year ending Dec. 31, 1902	4,221.01
Leaving a balance to its credit of.	\$ 778.99

Estimated Value of Park Property.

Estimated value of fifteen acres of improved land.....	\$75,000.00
Estimated value of animals.....	325.00
Estimated value of park residence.....	2,500.00
Estimated value of hot house.....	500.00
Estimated value of flowers and shrubs.....	1,000.00
Estimated value of implements and tools.....	100.00
Estimated value of water hose.....	40.00
Estimated value of office fixtures	25.00
Estimated value of two fountains.....	500.00
Estimated value of three hundred gold fish.....	100.00
Estimated value of twelve cages.....	300.00
Estimated value of one hundred benches	100.00
Estimated value of one vase.....	25.00
Total valuation	\$80,515.00

Rules of Park.

Visitors are welcome, but they are positively enjoined to confine themselves to the avenues and walks, and touch nothing.

Fast driving, shooting and fishing prohibited.

Dogs positively forbidden in the park.

Drivers of carriages and horsemen are notified to walk their horses, hitch at the posts provided, and turn in the turn-ways.

Parties disobeying the above rules will be ejected from the grounds and prosecuted according to law.

O. H. NOLAND,
Keeper.

List of Animals, Birds, Trees and Shrubs.**ZOOLOGICAL.**

Two Monkeys.	Five Prairie Dogs.
One Desota.	Seven Belgium Hares.
One Cerkey.	Five White Rabbits.
Two Grey Wolves.	Five Guinea Pigs.
Nine Flying Squirrels.	Five Deer.
Seven Common Squirrels.	One Angora Goat.
Seven Coons.	One Alligator.
Two Armadillos.	One Cub Bear.
One Opossum.	

ORNITHOLOGICAL.

Two Wild Ducks.	One Chicken Hawk.
Five Common Ducks.	One Sparrow Hawk.
One Goose.	Two Turtle Doves.
Two Owls.	Two Bantam Chickens.
One Mexican Eagle.	Two Japan Chickens.
Eight Ring-neck Doves.	One Brant.

TREES AND SHRUBS.

Rubber Tree.	Justicia.
Coleus.	Oleanders.
Maiden Hair Fern.	Cape Jessamine.
Lace Fern.	Century Plants.
Palmetta Palms.	Boston Fern.
Date Palms.	Geraniums.
Hibiscus.	Spengri.
Plomosus Namus Fern.	Staphonitas.
Meteor Rose.	Carolina Kuster Rose.
Captain Crispy Rose.	Paul Meron Rose.
Momon Cachet Rose.	Catuile Supert Rose.
Madam Swartz Rose.	

Buildings.

One two-story brick residence, eight rooms.

One hot-house, 16x40 feet.

Recommendations.

I would call your attention to the necessary improvements which should be made in this department during the ensuing year.

I would suggest that a new hot house be built, as the present one is too small to hold the palms, to say nothing of the numerous other plants.

I recommend that a new fence be built around park property, as the present one is in a bad condition.

I recommend that a new roof be put on the park residence, as the present one is made of tin, and has served a number of years, until now it leaks very badly.

I would further recommend that a two-inch water main be laid in the park, as at present it has a three-quarter inch main, which does not give sufficient force for watering purposes.

I would like to have purchased: One horse, one one-horse power mower, one cart, six chairs for office, one hundred benches, fifty young trees and one set of cart harness.

I wish to extend my thanks to his honor, the Mayor, to the members of the Park Committee and also to the City Auditor for assisting me in preparing this, my annual report.

Respectfully submitted,

O. H. NOLAND,

Superintendent of Park.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

CHARLES G. BYRNE,

CITY BOILER INSPECTOR,

For the Year Ending
December 31, 1902.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, January 10, 1903.

HON. O. T. HOLT,

Mayor.

DEAR SIR—In compliance with your request I respectfully submit herewith my report of the work done in my department from June 1, 1902, to December 31, 1902, this period covering the term of my office:

Inspections, Etc.

Number of steam boilers in the city for generating power in manufacturing.....	88
Number of steam boilers used on portable engines.....	5—93
Number of power plants using steam boilers in this city.....	46
Number of new steam boilers installed this year	8
Number of boiler explosions in the city this year.....	1
Cause of boiler explosion (from what could be learned), neglect of duties on part of attendant in charge of boiler at time of explosion.	
Number of lives lost caused by explosion.....	2
Number of boiler repairs ordered	2
Number of boilers inspected from June 1, 1902, to Dec. 31, 1902	52
Amount collected on 45 inspections @ \$5.00.....	\$225.00
Amount due this office on 7 inspections @ \$5.00.....	35.00

Number of Engineer's Licenses Issued from June 1, 1902, to December 31, 1902.

Number of original first-grade licenses issued.....	11
Number of original second-grade licenses issued.....	7
Number of renewed first-grade licenses issued.....	21
Number of renewed second-grade licenses issued.....	14
Total.....	53
Number of applicants for engineer's license.....	24
Number of applicants for engineer's license rejected.....	6
Number of engineer's license raised from second to first grade.....	2
Number of duplicate copies of engineer's licenses issued in place of original ones lost.....	1

Amount collected from issue and renewal of engineer's license	\$212.50
Amount collected for the inspection of boilers.....	225.00

Total collected and turned over to the City Treasurer from June 1, 1902, to December 31, 1902.....	\$437.50
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Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES G. BYRNE,
City Boiler Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

J. J. WHALEN,

SUPERINTENDENT GARBAGE DEPARTMENT,

For the Year Ending
December 31, 1092.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, January 10, 1903.

HON. O. T. HOLT,
Mayor.

DEAR SIR—Complying with your request to furnish you with a report of this department for the year 1902, I beg leave to submit the following:

Disbursements.

Salary account	\$14,865.44
Labor “	10,564.65
Feed “	1,623.09
Blacksmithing and horseshoeing	844.80
Harness and repairs	121.55
Hardware and tools.....	74.70
Miscellaneous.....	376.65

Work Done.

Total number cart loads of garbage hauled.....	12,132
“ “ yards hauled by carts	42,462
“ “ wagon loads hauled	2,592
“ “ of yards hauled by wagons.....	15,552
“ “ loads by carts and wagons	14,724
“ “ yards hauled	58,014

Dead Stock Hauled.

Chickens.....	33,792
Dogs	5,112
Cats	4,752
Rats	28,872
Turkeys	10,752
Ducks	2,640
Horses.....	84
Mules.....	12
Cows	24
Calves.....	24
Grand total.....	86,064

The territory comprised in the Garbage Department is divided into twelve districts, for which we have twelve carts and two wagons to cover same.

We have 16 men at work in the Garbage Department, and we have stock in this department as appears as follows: Horses, 5; mules, 12; wagons, 5; carts, 8; with the necessary amount of harness, brooms, shovels, etc., for the handling of the department.

Respectfully submitted,

J. J. WHALEN,
Supt. Garbage Dept.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

JOHN McNEELY,

SEWER AND PLUMBING INSPECTOR,

For the Year Ending
December 31, 1902.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, January 10, 1903.

HON. O. T. HOLT,
Mayor.

DEAR SIR—I respectfully tender the following report on the work in my department for the year 1902:

There has been a large increase during the past year in the number of permits taken out for sewer connections and plumbing work, and in the number of inspections made and money collected therefor.

During the year 1901 the number of permits granted on record is as follows:

Permits Granted.

Sewer connection permits.....	117
Plumbing.....	113
Total	230
Plumbing fixtures installed.....	426
Collections.....	\$72.00

During the year 1902 inspections and permits were as follows:

Sewer connection permits.....	260
Plumbing	418
Total.....	678
Plumbing fixtures installed.....	1,309
Collections.....	\$670.00

The number of dead ends to sewers is 85.

Flush tanks at sewer ends, 41.

The record for the two years shows an increase in the number of permits for 1902 over 1901 of nearly 300 per cent; increase in number of plumbing fixtures installed, over 300 per cent; increase

in collections over 900 per cent. It is proper to state in regard to collections that some of the records were probably destroyed in the fire of 1901, and some collections may have been made prior to that time, as the number of permits taken out would indicate a sum of approximately \$230.00 due that year for permits.

Three-fourths of the flush tanks are useless and cannot be kept in working condition. These should be changed and a better type of flush tanks installed. Many new flush tanks should be installed on the dead ends of sewers.

Plumbing.

The plumbing work now done in Houston will compare very favorably with most cities, and is sanitary and modern in nearly every respect. Several changes in the manner of doing work have been insisted on, so that the plumbing ordinance has been more strictly complied with. I have had the almost unanimous support of the Master Plumbers in these efforts to improve the quality of work, without materially increasing its cost, and the journeymen have assisted me in every possible manner.

There is much old work in the city which should be condemned and torn out, and there are a large number of residences within a reasonable distance of the sewers not yet connected with same. The benefits of sanitary plumbing, as shown by the mortality statistics of the city, will not be felt until sanitary plumbing is more universally installed. Just so long as old, unsanitary plumbing work and open box closets are allowed mixed in the same block with sanitary work, proper comparisons of the great difference in health between the two methods cannot be seen.

There are some objectionable features in the plumbing ordinance under which work is now done, which ought to be changed, and I would respectfully recommend the drafting of a new ordinance at an early date.

If the scale of charges for inspections was properly revised this

office could easily be made self-supporting without imposing any undue burden on any one. With the present arrangement, the city charges the same amount for inspecting a small cottage with one or two plumbing fixtures, as it does for a large office building with fifty or more fixtures. The City Electrician's charges for inspections are based on the number of outlets, and I see no reason why the inspections made by this office should not be based on the number of plumbing fixtures, as the labor of inspecting is greater in proportion. This method is employed in many cities.

In conclusion I thank you for your co-operation, which at all times has been cheerfully given, and for your assistance given me whenever required.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN MCNEELY,
Sewer and Plumbing Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

DR. C. M. NOBLE,
CITY VETERINARY SURGEON,

For the Year Ending
December 31, 1902.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, January 10, 1903.

HON. O. T. HOLT,
Mayor.

DEAR SIR—I submit this, my report of the condition of all horses in which the city is interested. There are now 32 horses in the Fire Department, that being three less than formerly. On account of three head becoming unfit for fire service, they were transferred to the Street and Bridge Department. There are four horses in the Fire Department that will soon be in no condition for fire service. The rest of them at present are in the very best possible condition. During the year one horse was killed from being overdriven. I estimate the value of these horses at \$4,800. I would recommend that all fire horses be fed upon the best possible feed on the market, such as clipped white oats, alfalfa and timothy hay. I wish to thank Chief Arto for his many kindnesses and courtesies extended me during the year.

STREET AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT.

Has six horses and fourteen mules. There are several animals in this department that are hardly fit for use at any time during the year. One horse dropped dead while at work, and another died of pneumonia. The value of live stock of this department amounts to \$2,325.

GARBAGE DEPARTMENT.

Has six horses and ten mules. With the exception of two head, the stock of this department are in good condition. During the year one mule died from tetmis. Value of stock, \$1,800.

SCAVENGER DEPARTMENT.

Has one horse and sixteen mules. Four mules have just been purchased at a cost of \$700. All the stock of this department are in the best of condition. Value of all, \$2,175.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Has two small mules; good condition; value, \$175.

SEWER DEPARTMENT.

Has one small mule; condition good; value, \$75.

ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT.

Has one horse; condition fair; value, \$75.

This makes a total of 89 horses and mules owned by the city. I estimate their value to be \$11,400.

Respectfully submitted,

C. M. NOBLE,
City Veterinary Surgeon.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS.

A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

SYNOPSIS OF REPORT SUBMITTED BY HASKINS & SELLS,
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

W. W. BARNETT,

SUPERINTENDENT.

The public schools of the city of Houston were organized in 1876. The value of the school property amounts to over a half a million dollars. The net enrollment of this scholastic year, which is not completed, amounts to 7,050 pupils. There are 121 white teachers, principals and supernumeraries, and 51 colored. This makes a total of 172 teachers of all kinds required to operate the schools. Teachers are paid according to a scale of salaries based on the number of years of experience and efficient work. Free text books have been furnished to the first four grades at an average annual cost of 24 cents per pupil. The same books, under individual ownership, cost 98 cents per pupil. For the year ending June, 1902, 82 per cent of the scholastic population of the city had been enrolled in the public schools. This high percentage of attendance is an indication of the strong desire on the part of the people to educate their children. Houston has two high schools—one for the white and the other for colored children. As an indication of the support the people give to high school education may be quoted the enrollment, 620 in the white high school and 109 in the colored high school. The high school in each case maintains a four years' course of study which fits the student for entrance into the university.

SYNOPSIS OF HASKINS & SELLS' REPORT.

NEW YORK, December 31, 1902.

HON. O. T. HOLT, Mayor,	}	Committee of Records and Accounts of the City of Houston.
HON. H. T. KELLER, Chairman,		
HON. W. T. WALL,		
HON. L. E. MILLER,		

GENTLEMEN—As provided in Section 1 of the agreement of June 2, 1902, with the city of Houston, we have made an examination and audit of the records and accounts in all departments of your municipality for the period January 1, 1899, to and including April 14, 1902, or for that portion of the period covering which the books and records were available.

Shortages, irregularities and discrepancies in the accounts, which have been developed by this examination, aggregate \$54,631.42, the details of which appear in the statements relating to the respective departments affected thereby. Of this amount, \$21,612.61 relates to the School Board, the report on which was rendered under date of December 3, 1902.

* * * * *

As further provided in Section 1 of the agreement referred to, we have prepared and submit herewith a statement showing the financial condition of the city of Houston as at April 14, 1902.

* * * * *

Comments.

FINANCIAL CONDITION APRIL 14, 1902.

The general balance sheet, Exhibit "A," shows the financial condition of the city of Houston at April 14, 1902, and in its preparation we have used all the information it was possible to obtain.

The general books of the city did not contain an accurate record of either the assets or liabilities, and it would not have been possible to prepare from the books anything like a correct statement of the financial condition of the city at any date.

The ledgers, since January 1, 1900, had never been balanced.

No account was kept on the general books with the City Treasurer.

The Assessor and Collector of Taxes was never charged with the total amount of the tax rolls. The purchases of real estate and equipment, the cost of buildings erected, etc., were never set up as assets; no liability appeared for warrants issued and unpaid, for the pavement refunding certificates, or for certificates of indebtedness issued and unpaid; and the total liability from bonds outstanding did not appear.

Referring particularly to the bonded indebtedness, the liability at January 1, 1899, from outstanding bonds of the issue known as the Houston Tap & Brazoria Railway, was \$9,500, but there were retired in the year 1899, of this issue of bonds, \$13,500. It appears that the difference, \$4,000, had been charged off some years before, apparently for the reason that coupons had been presented for but \$9,500 of outstanding bonds.

Further, the city's books, April 14, 1902, show a liability of \$12,800, representing 6 per cent consolidated bonds of the issue of July 1, 1876, outstanding. We find, however, that the total amount of this issue of bonds still outstanding is \$14,000, the difference being \$1,200, in three bonds, as follows: No. 945, \$1,000; No. 1242, \$100; No. 1248, \$100. The city has been paying interest on these three bonds regularly.

The assets from uncollected taxes of 1899, 1900 and 1901 in the hands of the Assessor and Collector of Taxes for collection, appearing in the balance sheet, are figures that have been arrived at after having eliminated those items appearing uncollected on

the roll, which appear to have been double or erroneous assessments.

With respect to the item of \$188,911.81 (taxes for years prior to 1899 remaining uncollected), it is probable that the larger part of this amount is not collectable; partly by reason of erroneous or double assessments, and partly by reason of the four-year limitation clause in Section 40 of the city charter.

The city is in dispute with the Houston Electric Railway Company, Citizens' Electric Light and Power Company and the Houston Water Company; therefore, the amount due to or by the city can not now be determined, and we have classed under the head of "Contingent" the full amount of unadjusted accounts between the city and these companies.

There is included under "Accounts Receivable" \$31,000, being the difference between the total amount of insurance carried on the Market House, which was burned June, 1901, and the amount collected from the insurance companies.

With respect to the item of \$429,540.21, "Pavement Refunding Certificates" outstanding, attention is directed to our report of September 26, 1902, particularly referring to the validity of the certificates.

* * * * *

TAX DEPARTMENT.

* * * * *

Many thousands of dollars, on account of 1898 and prior taxes, were turned into the City Treasury subsequent to January 1, 1899, through officials other than the Collector of Taxes, but the available records relating to such collections were not sufficient to admit of verification of the items being made.

This was particularly true in respect to settlements in tax suits, the records in the office of the Clerk of the District Court being incomplete. In many cases the Sheriff's return on the order of sale was endorsed on the original writ, and the items of

principal, interest and costs were not transferred to the execution record.

We are advised that many of the original files, including the Sheriff's return on the writ, were in the office of the City Attorney in the City Hall at the time of the fire, and were destroyed.

* * * * *

Schedule No. 4 of Exhibit "D" shows the items of taxes reduced or cancelled by authority of the City Council. (In some instances, the authorization for reduction or cancellation appears to have come from the Finance Committee.) The aggregate of such reductions for the period reviewed was \$22,186.64. In this connection, attention is called to Section 40 of the city charter, which contains the following provision:

"In no case shall the City Council, or any member of the City Council, or officer of the city, remit, discount or compromise any tax legally due the city."

Therefore, any items of taxes appearing in the schedule as reduced, remitted or cancelled, appear to be unauthorized and improper.

Your attention is also called to the fact that the item of \$1,878,059.60, "Collections, and the disposition thereof by the Tax Collector," the items of which by months appear in Schedule No. 3 of Exhibit "D," includes a large amount representing warrants and refunding certificate coupons.

The acceptance by the Collector of anything in the payment of taxes, other than current money, appears to be in violation of Section 4, Article 11, of the Constitution of the State of Texas, in this:

"All licenses and occupation taxes levied, and all fines, forfeitures, penalties and other dues, accruing to cities and towns shall be collectable only in current money."

Schedule 1 of Exhibit "D" contains items of taxes entirely omitted from the original tax rolls, remaining uncollected; also

items which appeared on the original tax rolls, but which were omitted from the delinquent rolls.

In cases of errors or omissions of this kind, the taxes due the city are lost sight of, and would not be brought to light except where taxpayers might happen to indicate to the Tax Collector that the payment of taxes had been less than it should have been, either on account of erroneous valuations or for any other reason.

The errors and omissions of this character aggregated, for the period reviewed, \$2,971.15, of which amount \$1,547.45 is included in the debit of \$1,631,666.98, and represents items appearing on the original rolls, but omitted from the delinquent rolls, and the remainder, \$1,423.70, appears as a separate item for the reason that it represents items which had been entirely omitted from the original rolls.

The irregularities and discrepancies established as a result of the audit and examination of the accounts and records of this department, are shown in Schedules Nos. 1 and 2 of Exhibit "D."

CITY ENGINEER.

The records of this department have not been well kept, and many instances were found of surveys made, the fees for which have not been accounted for.

On the date of our verification of the cash account in this department about one thousand (\$1,000) dollars of checks were found covering deposits for permits for opening streets. In the majority of instances these checks were probably worthless, as the depositors never took the trouble to have them returned. Over one-half of the amount of these checks had been deposited by one firm, and during a period extending over three years, and they acknowledged not knowing how many they had on deposit. It was the exception for the checks to bear numbers, and they appeared to be merely memoranda made out to conform with the law.

Disbursements were found to have been made by the City

Engineer, from his collections, for petty expenses of his office, for which no approvals by the Finance Committee of the City Council could be found.

Relating to the period reviewed, only one report appears to have been made by the City Engineer to the City Council covering moneys collected by him. This report covered the period, January 3 to March 6, 1899.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

The department docket of fines and costs assessed was found to be incomplete, inasmuch as many cases were found on the Corporation Court docket where prisoners had been fined, which did not appear on the department docket.

There were also many errors in the additions, although the totals of many of the months' transactions were certified as correct by the City Auditor.

No record was kept of the date prisoners were released from jail, making it impossible to determine whether the prisoners reported on the department docket as "committed" actually went to jail; also whether they served their full time.

No returns have ever been made to the Corporation Court by the Chief of Police on any process given him by the court to serve; therefore, all judgments appearing on the court docket appear as unsatisfied.

The Pound record contained many cases where impounded stock had been released without the reason for release being shown; nor were the pound fees accounted for.

Disbursements were made by the Chief from his collections for sundry expenses, such as repairing jail locks, expenses of detectives, telephone and telegraph bills, etc., which disbursements had not been approved by the Finance Committee of the City Council.

GENERAL.

We are informed that certain books and records of the city, relating to the year 1899, were stolen, and it appears that the city employed accountants to reproduce the general ledger for 1899. In connection with this work, many entries were made which are wholly unintelligible in the absence of any explanation or papers of any kind in support thereof, so that the general ledger, as "reproduced," afforded very little useful information.

A very considerable part of the warrants paid by the City Treasurer during the period under examination have no stamp on the face, or other evidence of having been paid.

A very large number of the warrants have been turned into the Treasury through the Assessor and Collector of Taxes, having been accepted by that official in payment of taxes.

A large number of the warrants so handled bear this endorsement: "Receivable for Taxes, L. Hutchins, Assistant Auditor."

The city of Houston has had no such official as an Assistant Auditor, and even if it had been proper for the tax receiver to have accepted city warrants in payment of taxes, it is difficult to understand how he could have done so on the authority of any one who was not occupying an official position, nor connected in any official capacity with the city government.

Salaries have been paid the City Auditor and the City Electrician at the rate of \$2,000 and \$1,500 per annum, respectively. No ordinance has been passed authorizing the payment of these salaries.

In collecting all books, vouchers, warrants, bills and other data bearing on the accounts of the city subsequent to January 1, 1899, no little difficulty was experienced.

The records filed in the vault located in the ruins of the Market House were in a deplorable condition, being covered with mildew, and in many of them the writing was almost obliterated,

and it is evident that no system or order has been observed in the past in the filing of papers, as documents of the same character, and relating to the same period, were found in the wash-room of the present City Hall, in the vault at the Market House and in the City Auditor's office.

Yours truly,

(Signed) HASKINS & SELLS,

Certified Public Accountants.

EXHIBIT "A."

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET

April 14, 1902.

*Available:***Assets.**

CASH.

In hands of Treasurer:

Paving Fund	\$209,559.28	
Sewer Fund.....	18,837.20	
Market House Insur'ce Fund	6,975.86	\$ 235,372.34

In other hands:

Assessor and Collector	\$ 3,766.75	
Police Department.....	138.10	
City Engineer.....	113.20	
Board of Liquidation.....	69,583.67	
Market Master.....	167.25	73,768.97

Total Cash	\$ 309,141.31
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Accounts Receivable:

Taxes in hands of Assessor and Collector of Taxes for collection, rendered, unrendered and unknown rolls prior to January 1, 1899..	\$188,911.81	
1899.....	23 590.43	
1900.....	23,342.76	
1901.....	63,497.00	
Supplemental Rolls:		
1899.....	7,529.70	
1900.....	24,936.50	
1901.....	23,831.00	
Market House Insurance....	31,000.00	
Interest due and not paid...	5,598.70	
City Scavenger Department	3,757.05	
Miscellaneous	2,085.91	398,080.86

Bills Receivable:

Houston Electric R'y Co....	17,424.33
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Total Available Assets.....	\$ 724,646.50
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Contingent Assets:

Houston Electric R'y Co., open account..	\$ 19,907.94	
Houston Electric R'y Co., interest accrued thereon	6,238.32	
Jno. S. Stewart.....	4,039.37	

Total Contingent Assets	30,185.63
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Not Available:

Property and Improvements, Jan. 1, 1899..	\$2,791,067.49	
Improvements and Additions subsequent to January 1, 1899.....	876,157.88	

Total Non-available Assets.....	3,667,225.37
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Shortages, Irregularities and Discrepancies.....	33,018.81
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Total.....	\$4,455,076.31
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EXHIBIT "A."

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET

April 14, 1902.

Liabilities.*Current Liabilities:*

Cash, Overdraft General Fund.....	\$ 4,147.82
Warrants drawn and unpaid, Schedule No. 2	41,866.41
Accounts payable for which warrants had not been drawn, Schedule No. 3.....	11,240.79
Wages accrued and not paid April 14, 1902..	5,372.35
Miscellaneous interest due and not paid ...	2,157.98
Bills payable, Schedule No. 1	66,581.52

Total Current Liabilities \$ 131,366.87

Accruals, Not Due:

Interest on bonded debt.....	\$ 47,982.68
Miscellaneous interest	756.10

Total Accruals, not due..... 48,738.78

Bonded Debt:

Maturing indebtedness bond, 10%, issue 1873..	\$ 1,000.00
Consolidated bonds, 6%, issue 1876	14,000.00
Funding bonds, 6%, issue 1882.....	524,000.00
Compromise bonds, 6%, issue 1888.....	500,000.00
Compromise bonds, 5%, issue 1888.....	503,000.00
Public school building bonds, 6%, issue 1894.	100,000.00
Bridge building bonds, 5%, issue 1896	39,000.00
Market house funding bonds, 5%, issue 1897..	109,000.00
Paving and sewer bonds, 5%, issue 1897 ...	250,000.00
School building bonds, 5%, issue 1897	50,000.00
School bldg. refunding bonds, 5%, issue 1898	60,000.00
Paving, sewer and permanent improvement bonds, 5%, issue 1898	100,000.00
Paving and sewer bonds, 5%, issue 1899 ...	100,000.00
Sewerage and sanitary system bonds, 5%, issue 1899	300,000.00
Paving bonds, 5%, issue 1901	240,000.00
Sewer bonds, 5%, issue 1901	60,000.00
School building bonds, 5%, issue 1901.....	50,000.00

Total Bonded Debt 3,000,000.00

Certificates of Indebtedness in favor of R. C. Storrie 113,283.33

Contingent Liabilities:

Citizens Electric Light & Power Co.....	\$ 69,949.44
Houston Water Co.....	44,522.65

Total Contingent Liabilities 114,472.09

Pavement Refunding Certificates..... \$429,540.21

Market House Insurance Account..... 38,993.50

Stock Account:

Excess of Assets over Liabilities..... 578,681.53

Total..... \$4,455,076.31

§ See report of September 26, 1902, relative to the validity of these certificates.

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